

FRENCH ICE

FEATURING CARMEN CRU

Sophisticated Humor For Those With Icy-Cool Taste!



FEBRUARY 1988

No. 11

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LELONG

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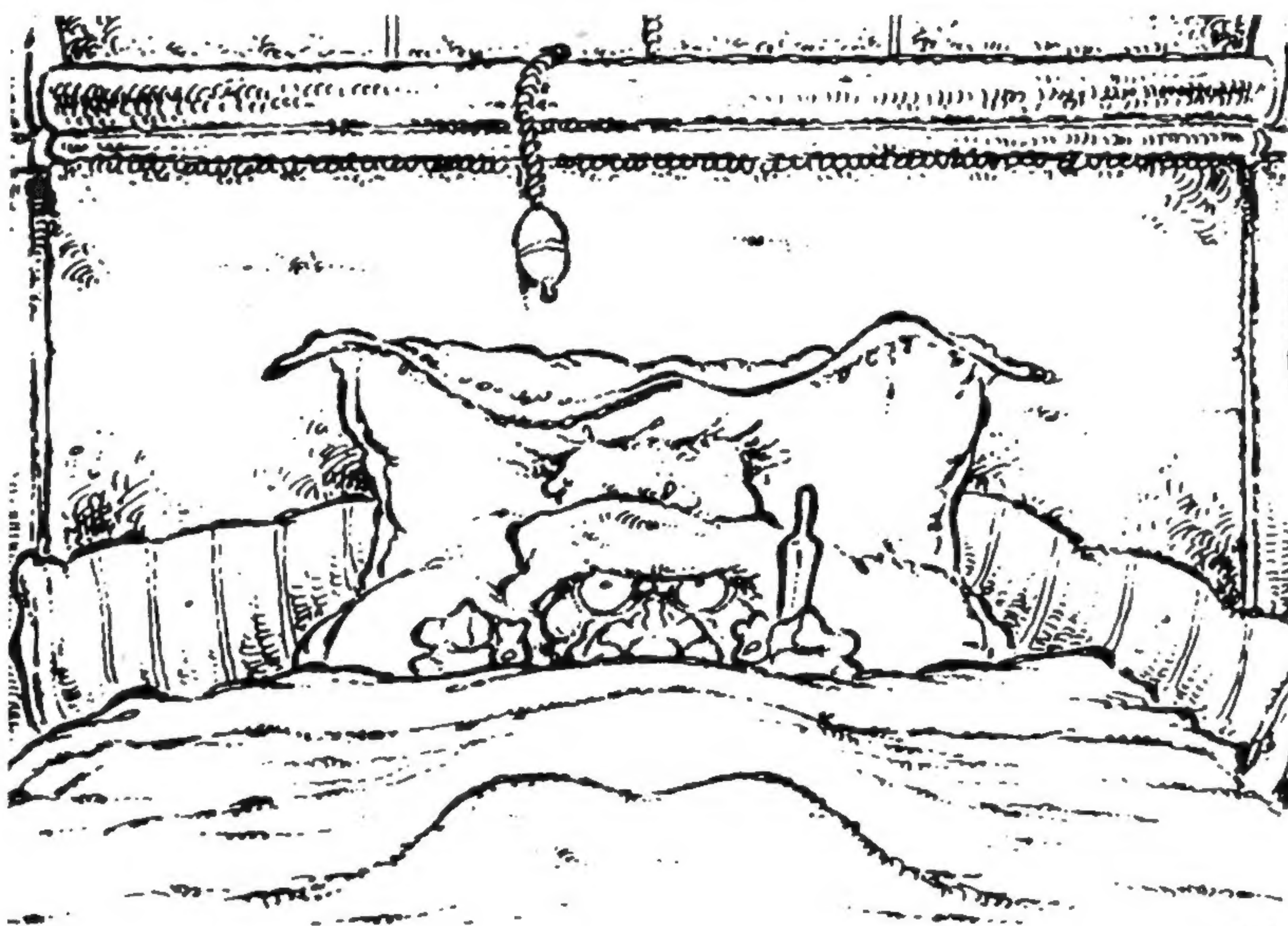
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FRENCH ICE

FEATURING **CARMEN CRU**

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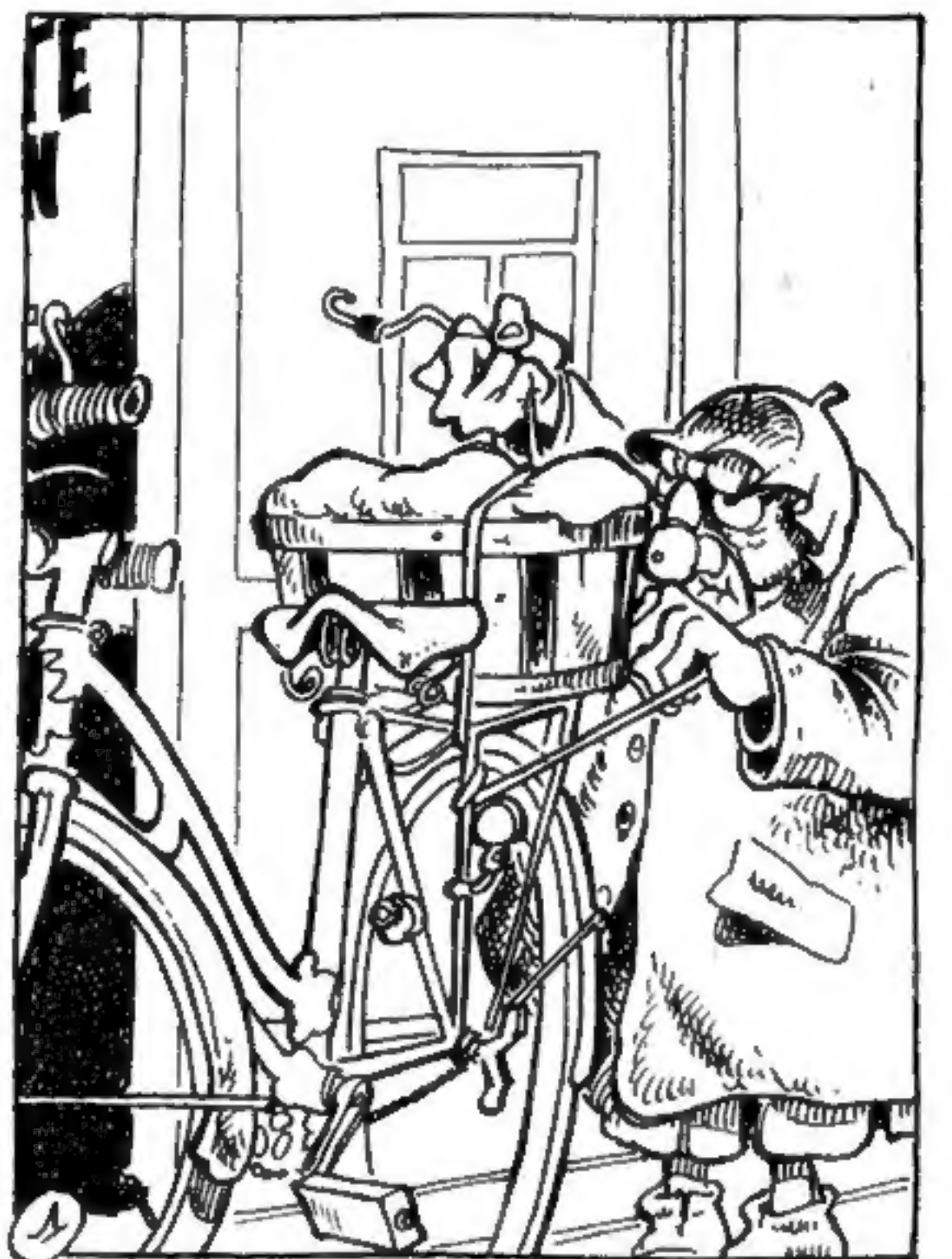
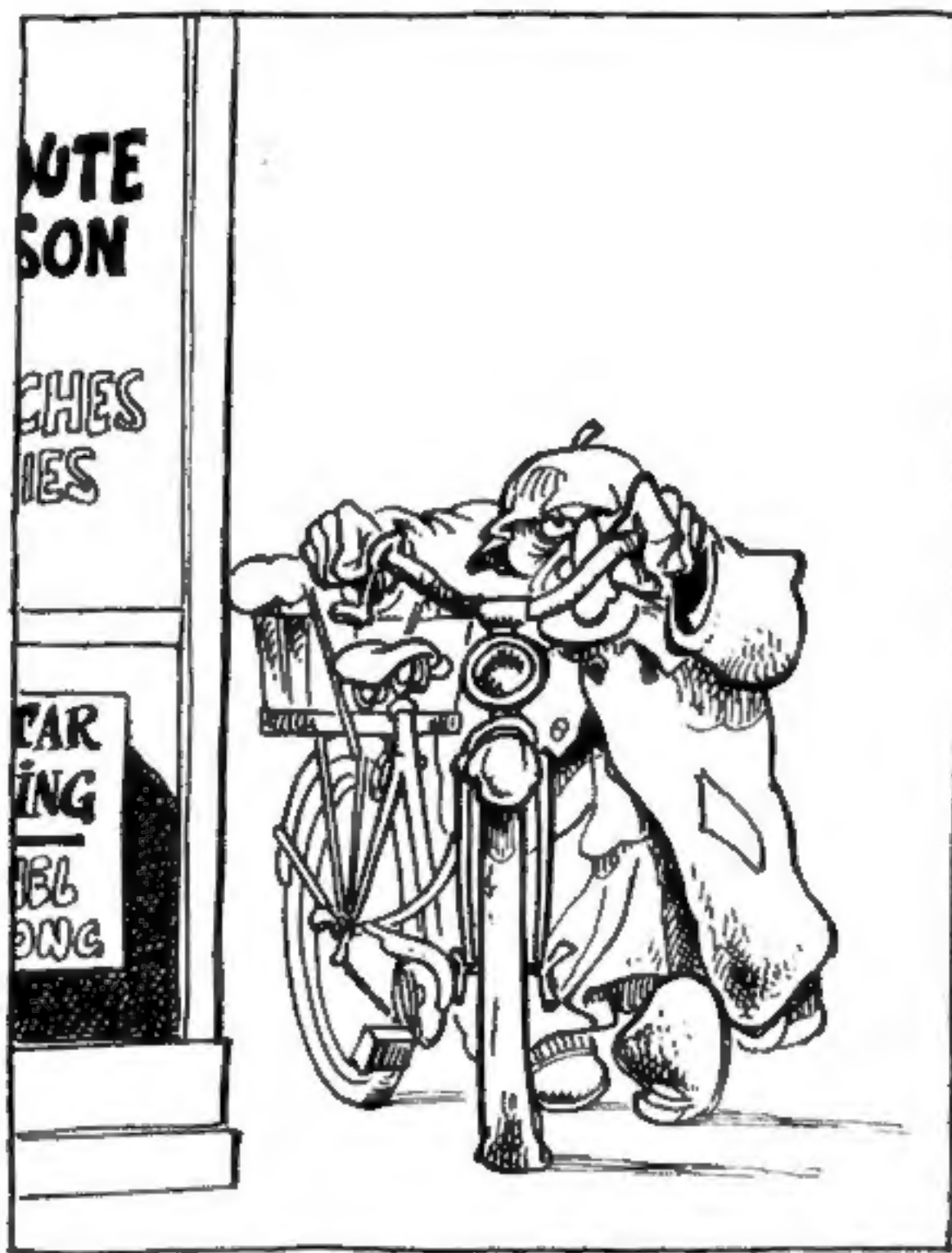
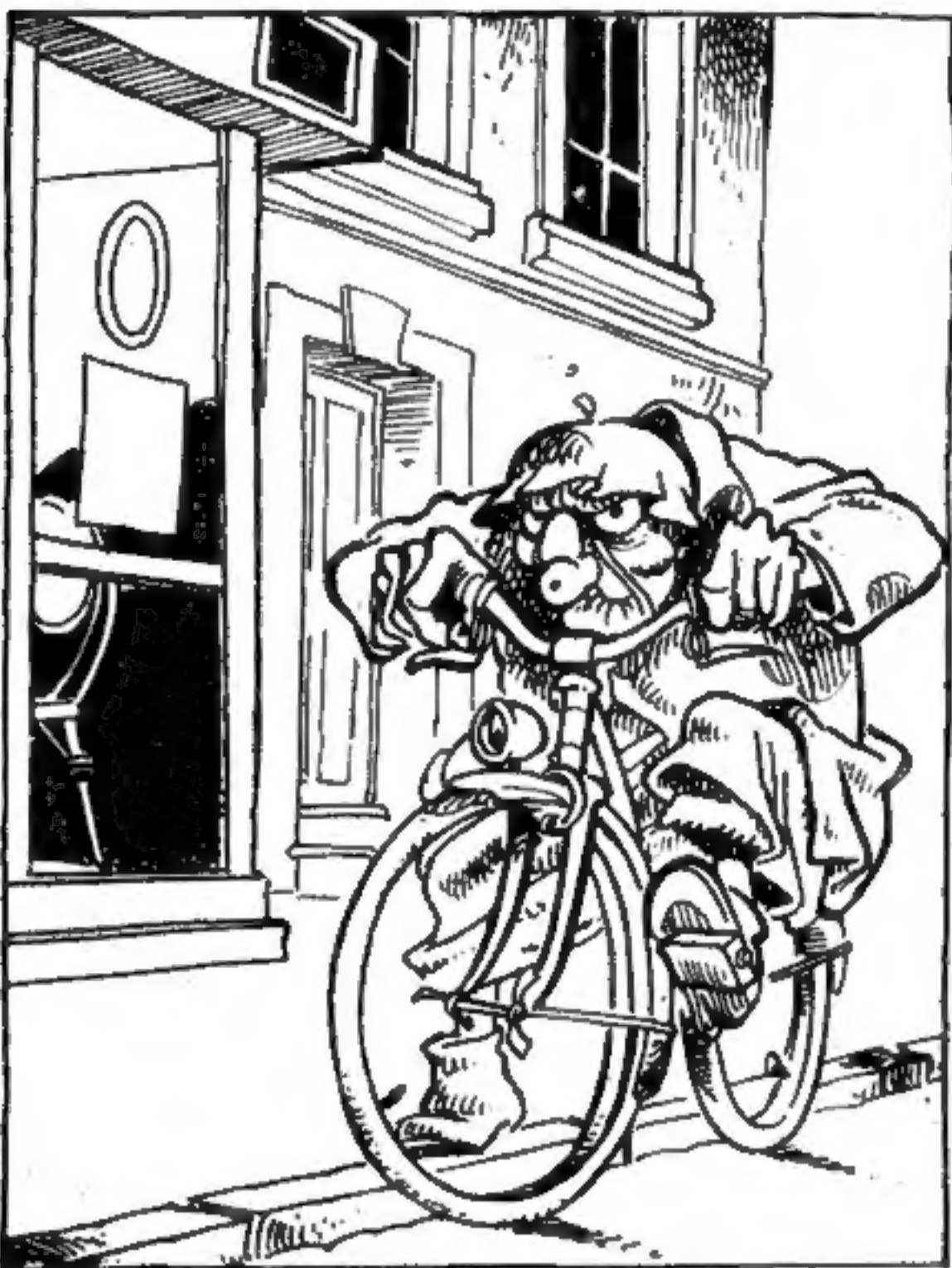
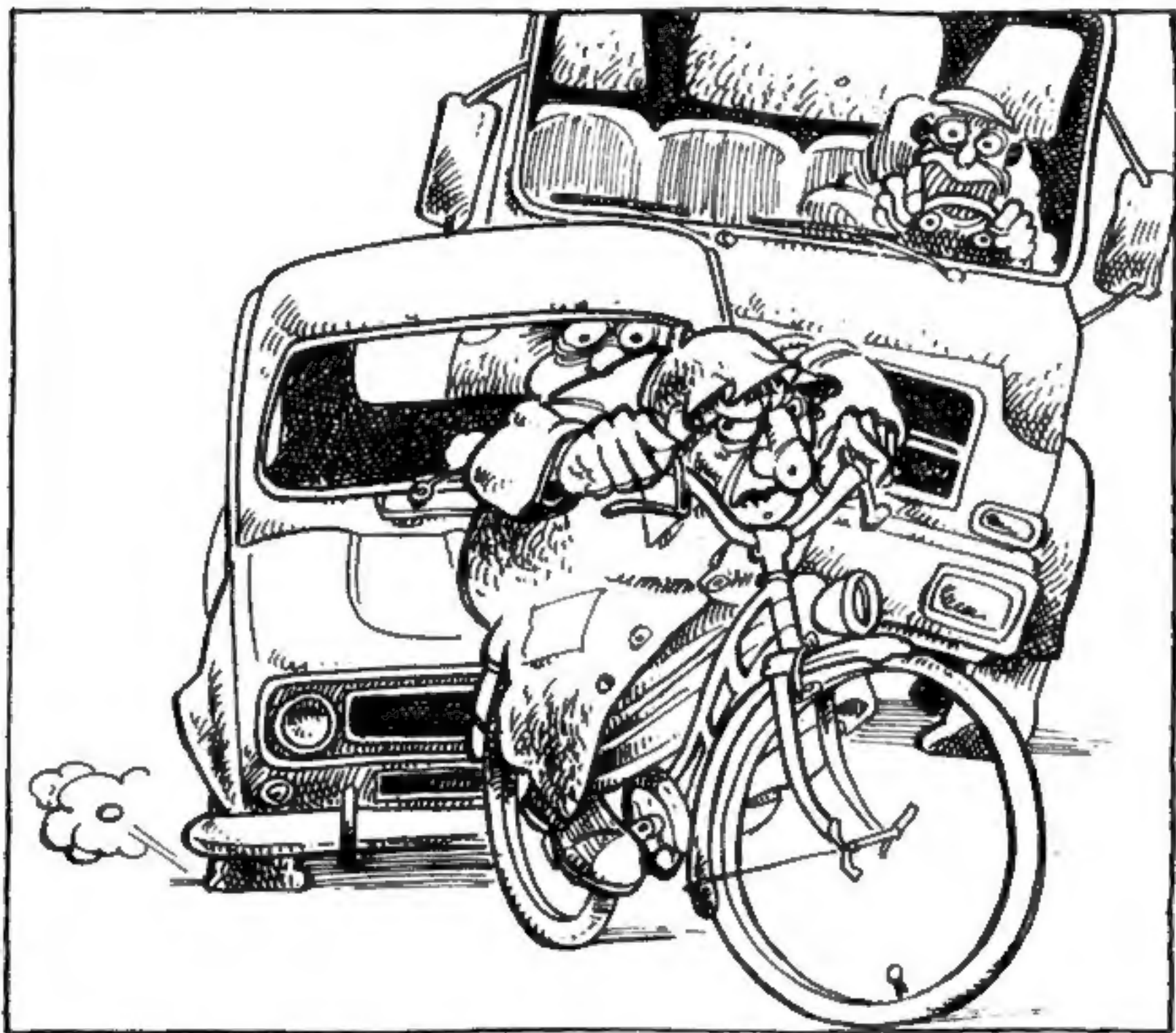
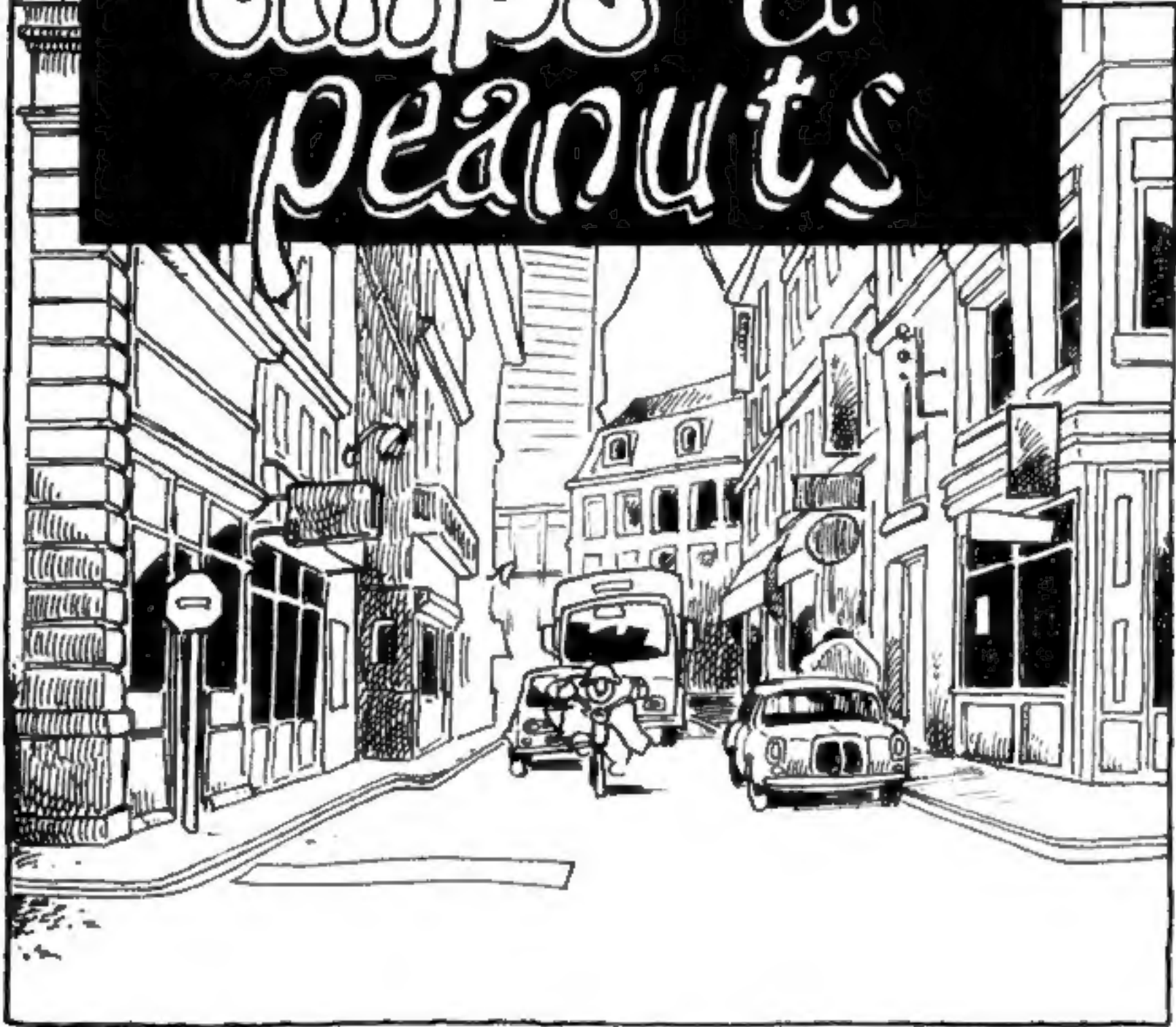
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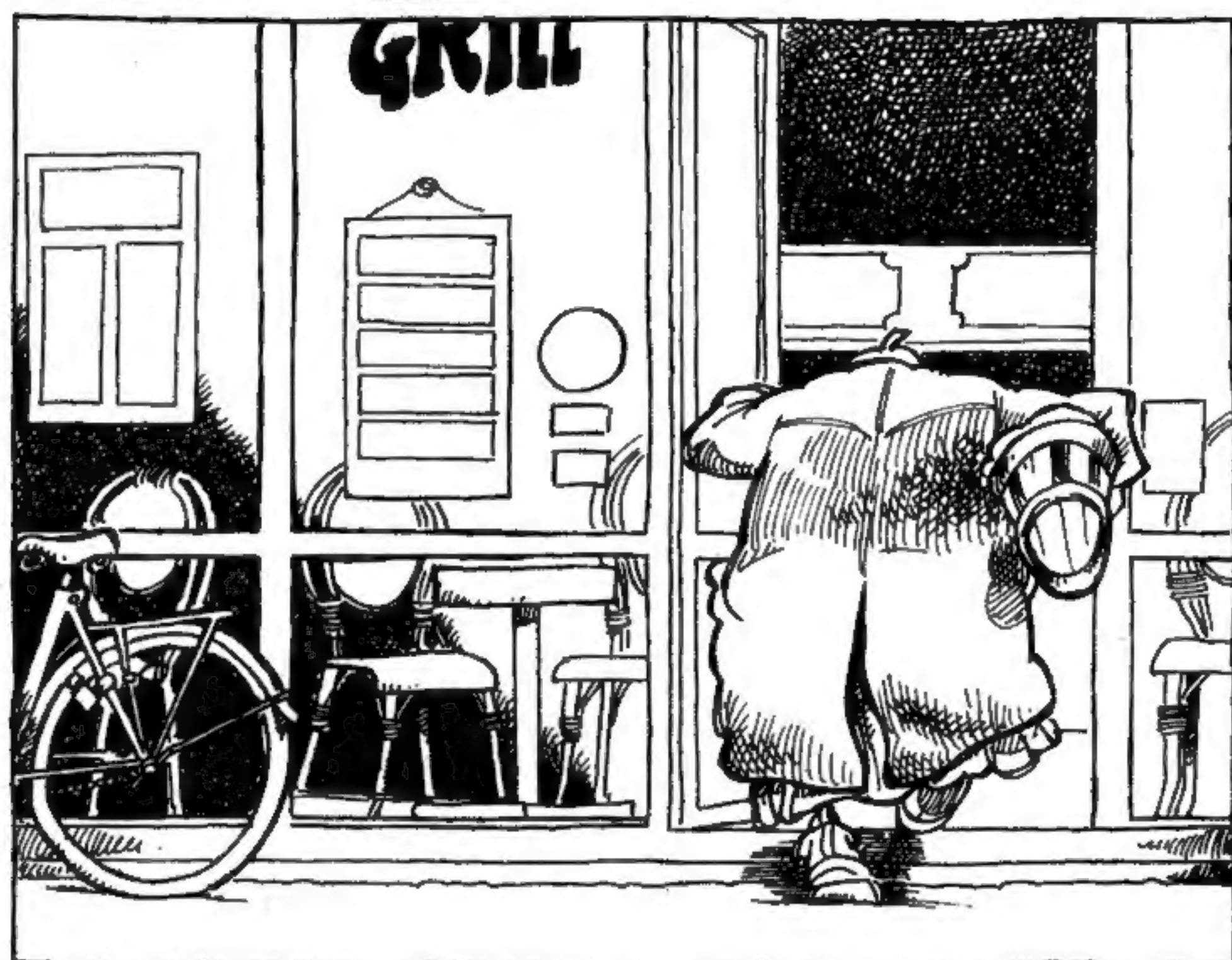
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Diamond Comics
Andromeda Pub.
Comics Unltd. Ltd
Second Genesis
Capital City Dist.
Styx Comic Service

Renegade Logo Design by Dave Roman

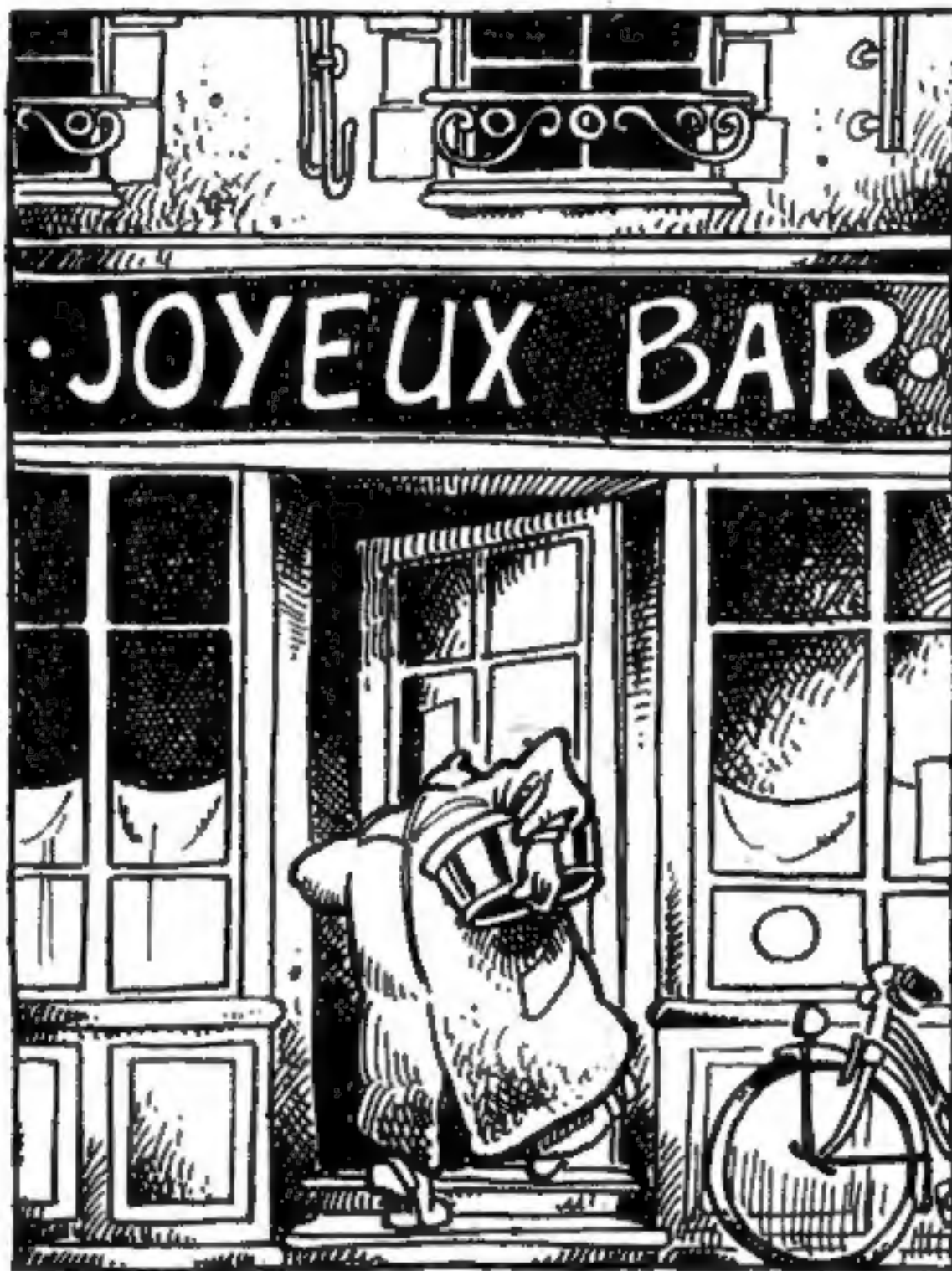
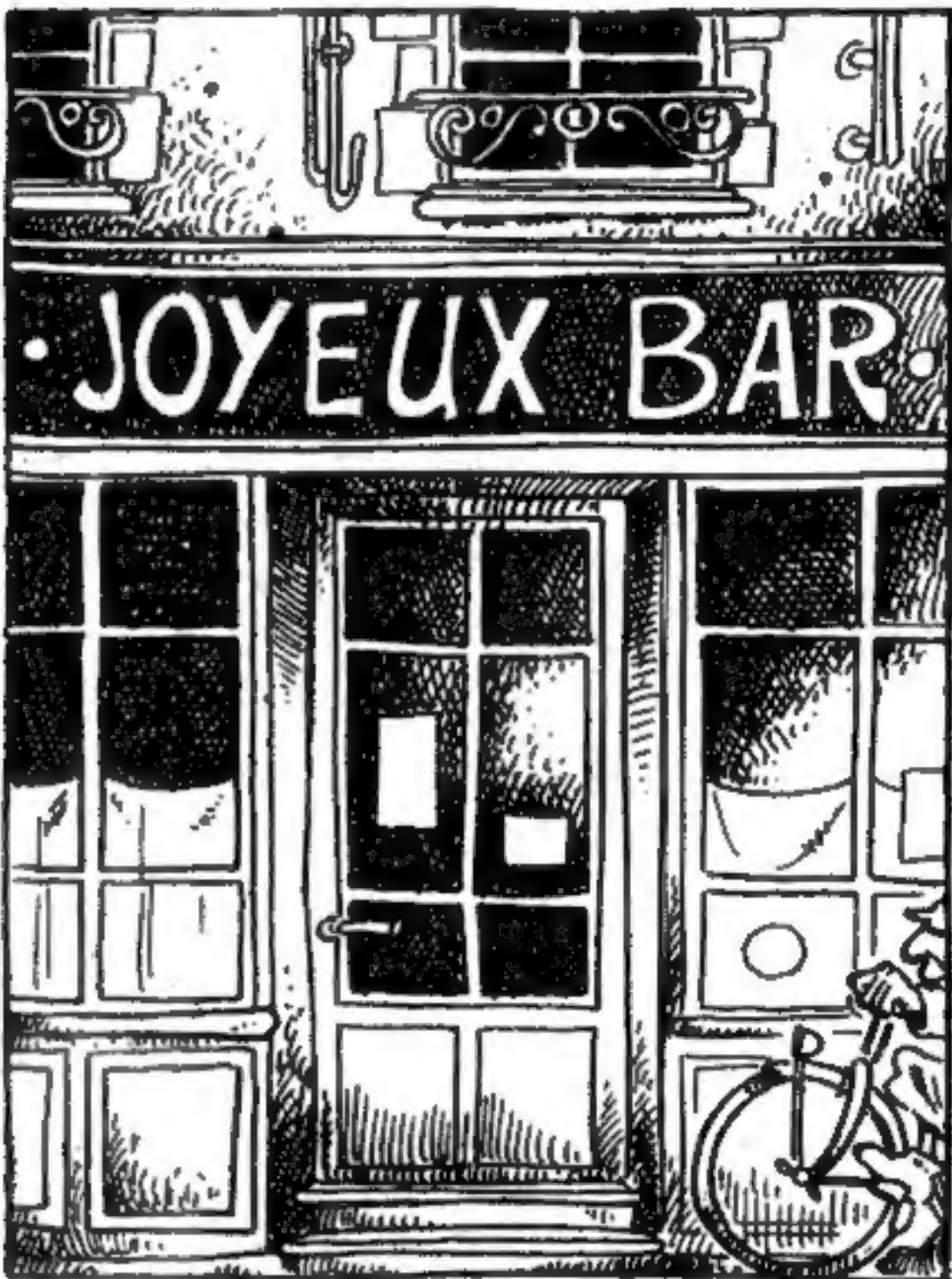
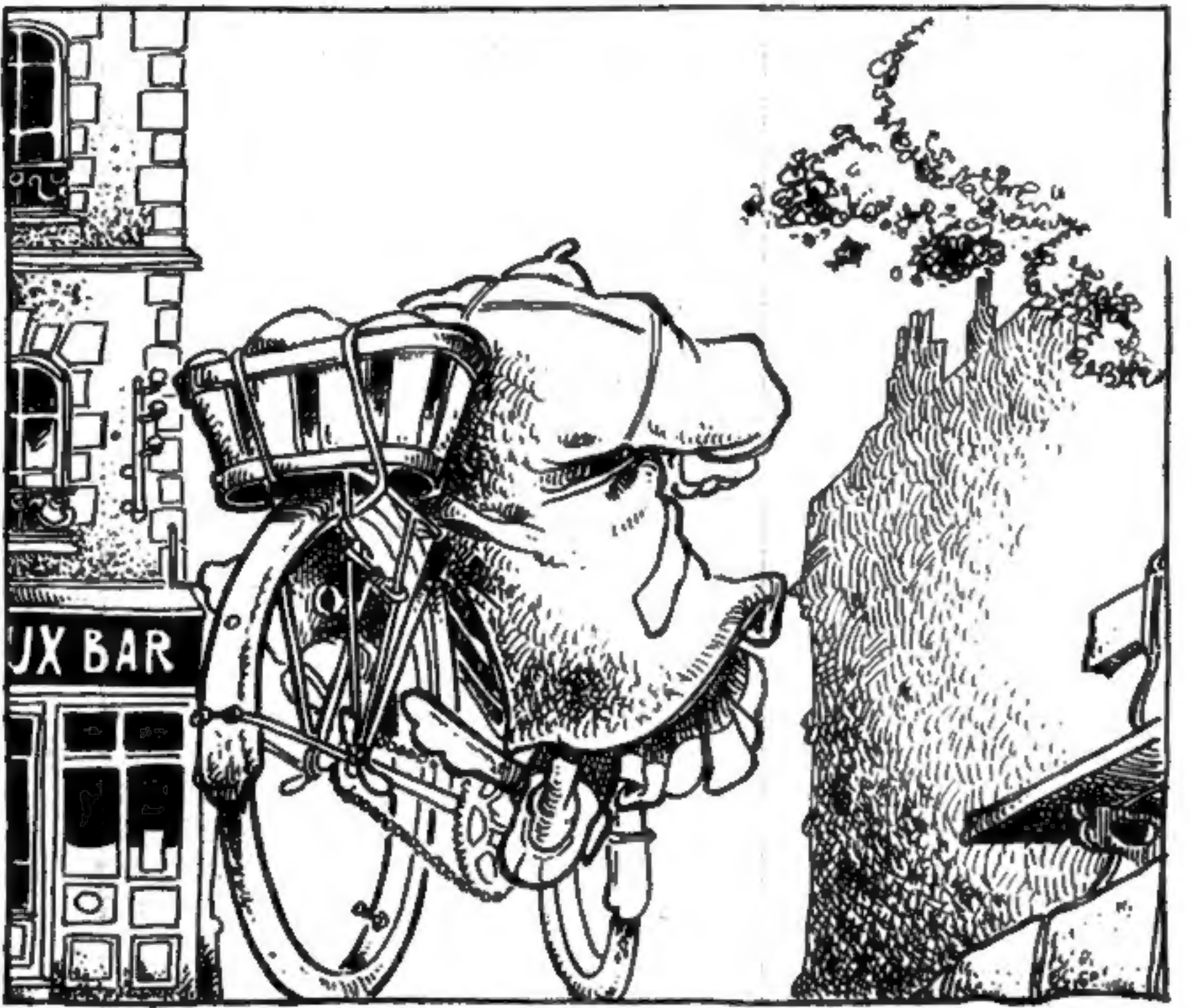
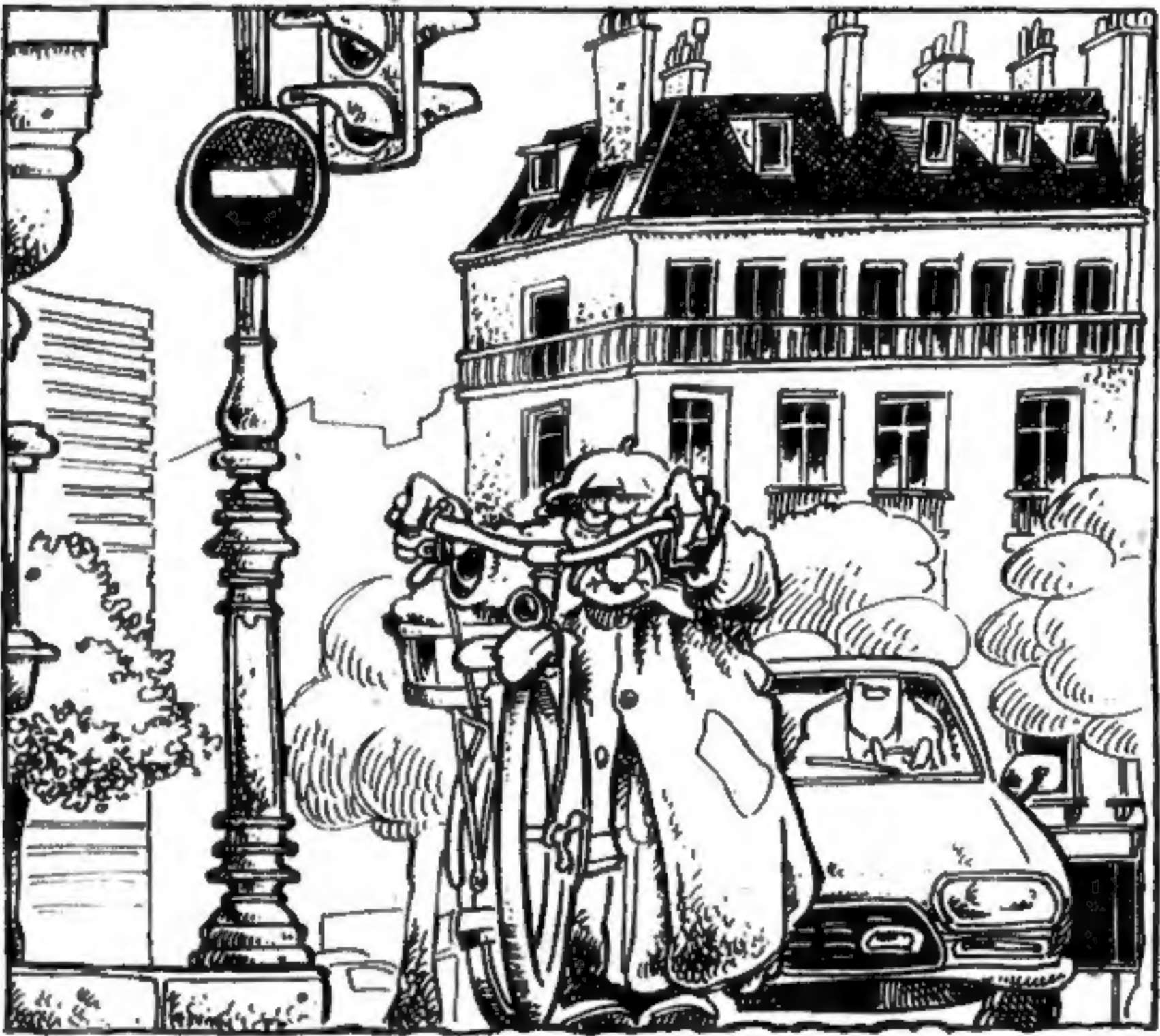
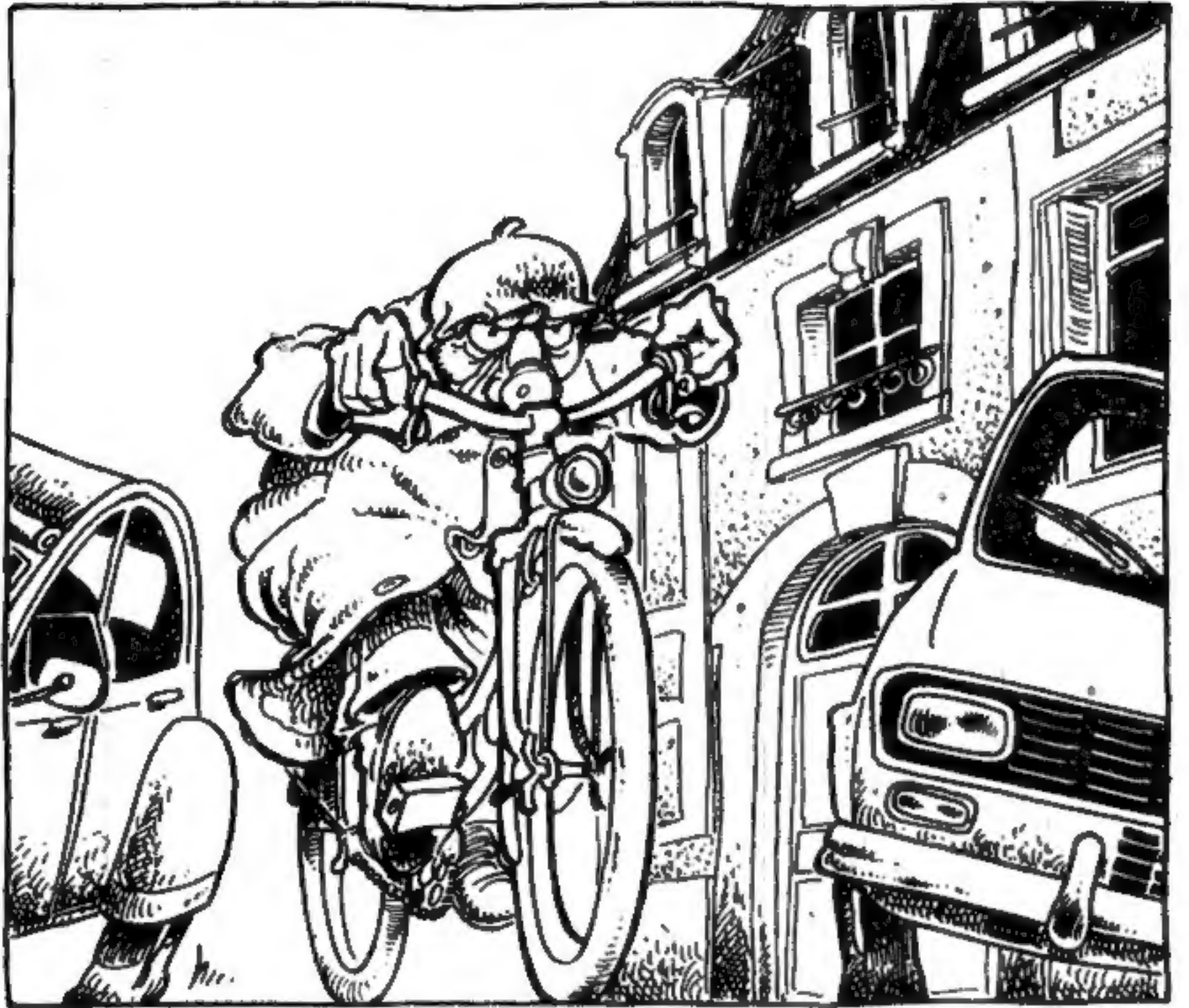
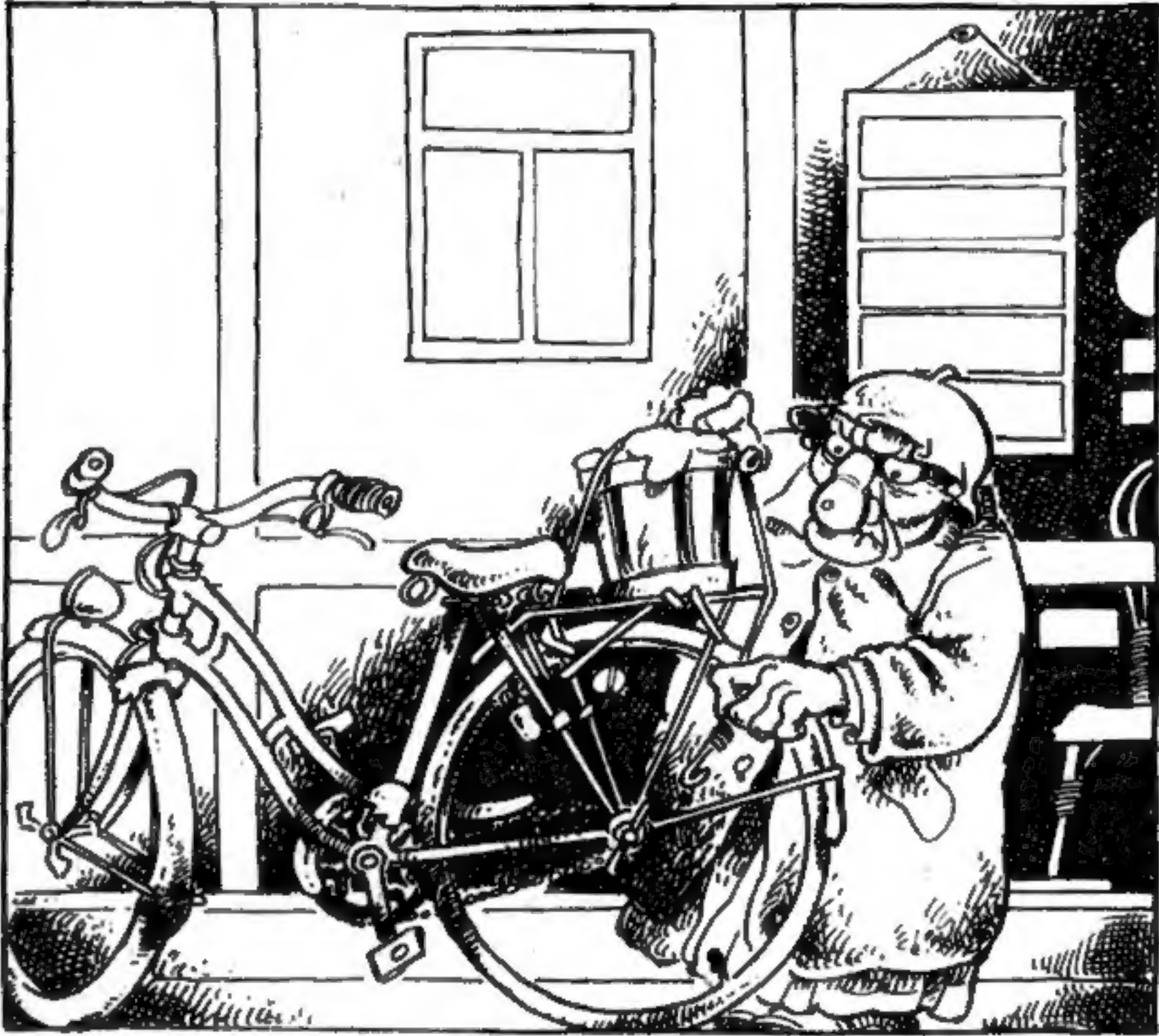


chips & peanuts



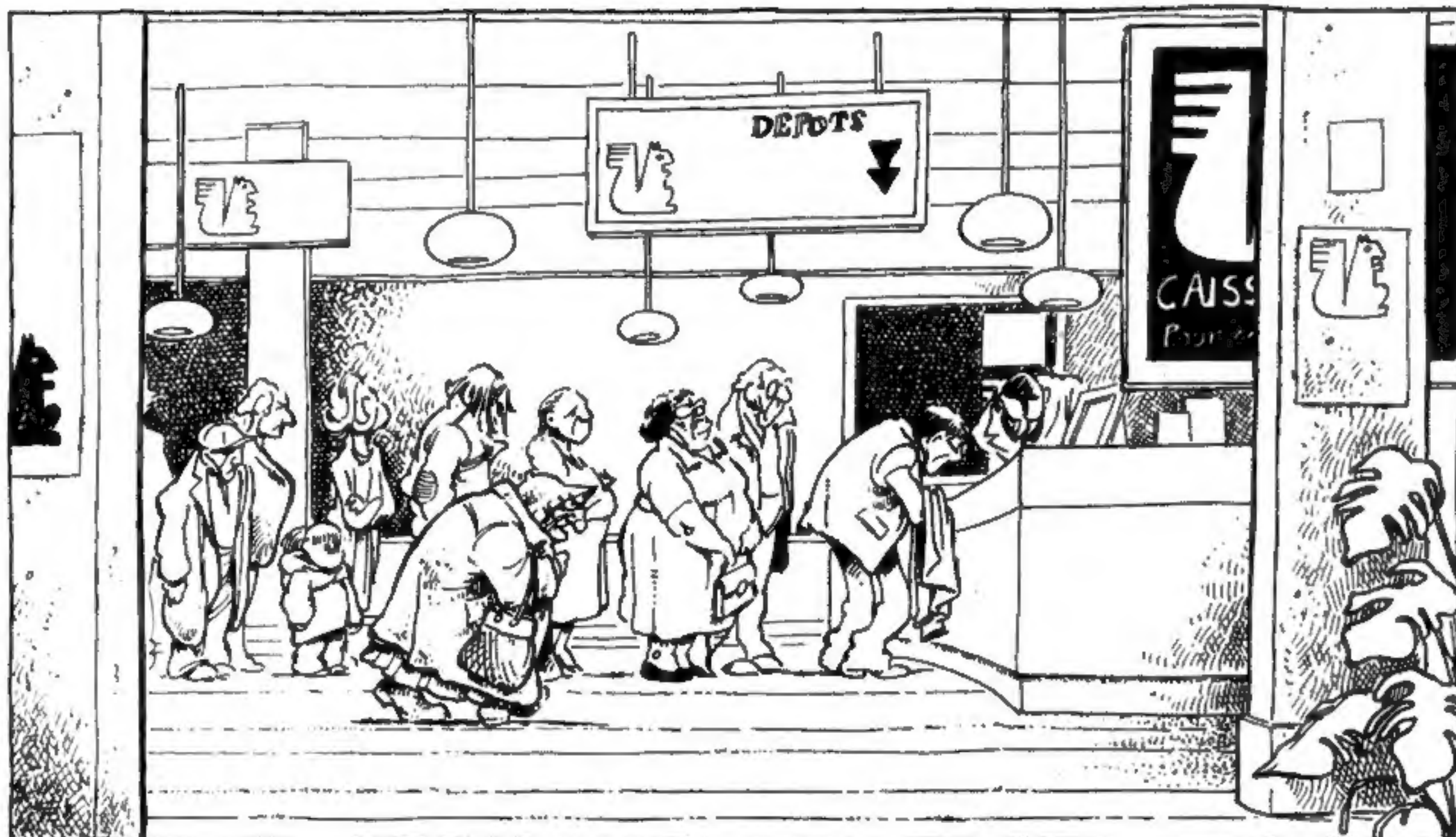






LELONG
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THE CROOKS

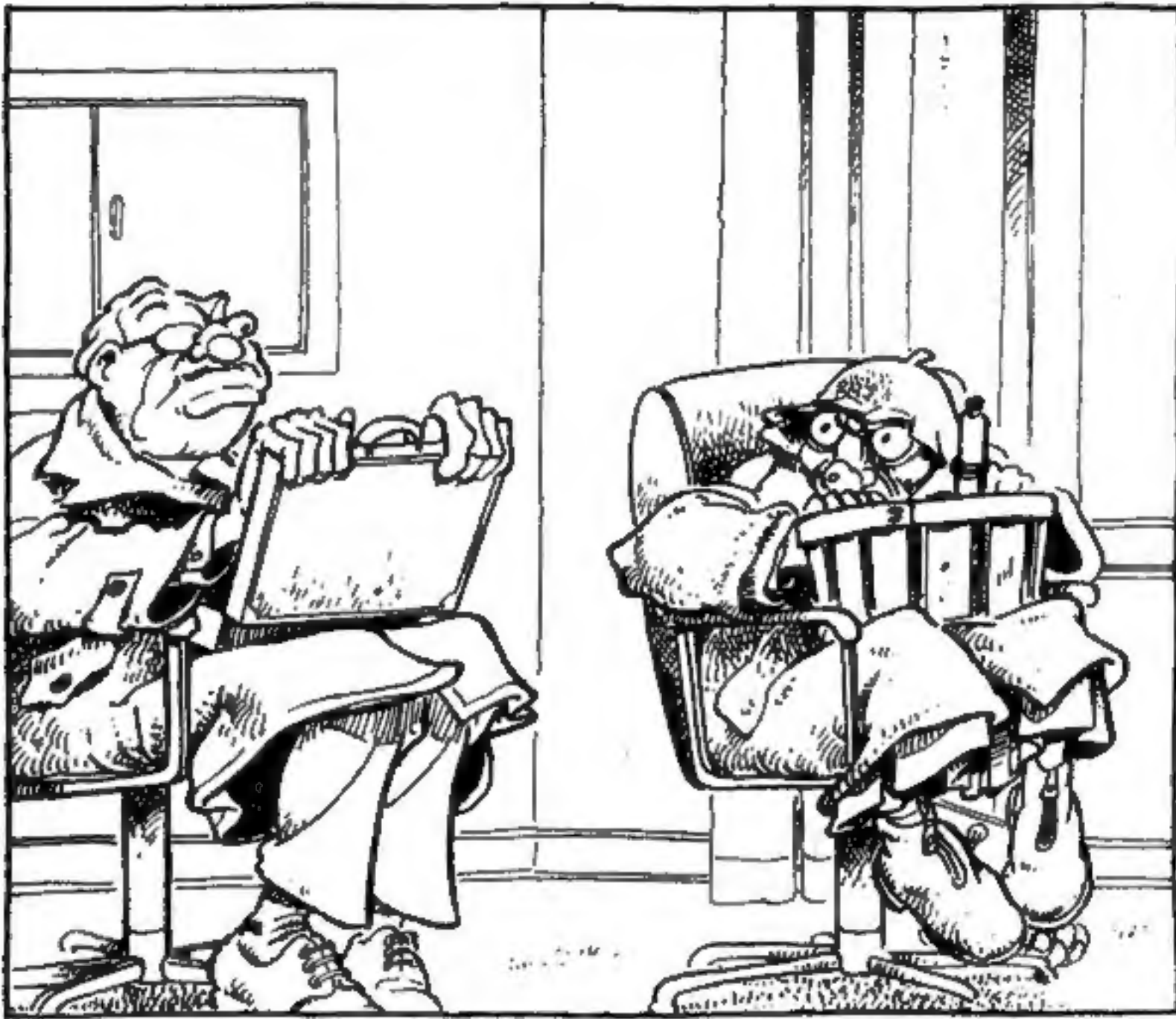




I WANT TO MAKE A DEPOSIT.

YOU AGAIN! BUT
I JUST TOLD
YOU TO WAIT
YOUR TURN.







YES, PENNIES! DO YOU THINK I CARRY HUNDRED DOLLAR BILLS AT MY AGE? ESPECIALLY WITH ALL THE CROOKS AROUND! I WANT TO DEPOSIT 250 PENNIES. WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?



NO, NOTHING'S WRONG, BUT THERE'S A MISUNDERSTANDING. I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO DEPOSIT \$250. I INPUT IT INTO THE COMPUTER. NOW WE'RE \$247.50 SHORT! IT'S TERRIBLE!



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THAT I OWE YOU \$247.50? GIVE ME BACK MY PASSBOOK!

NO! I HAVE TO CORRECT THE IMBALANCE.



YOU'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY OLD AGE TO TRY TO CHEAT ME! YOU'RE A CROOK! IT'S SHAMEFUL!

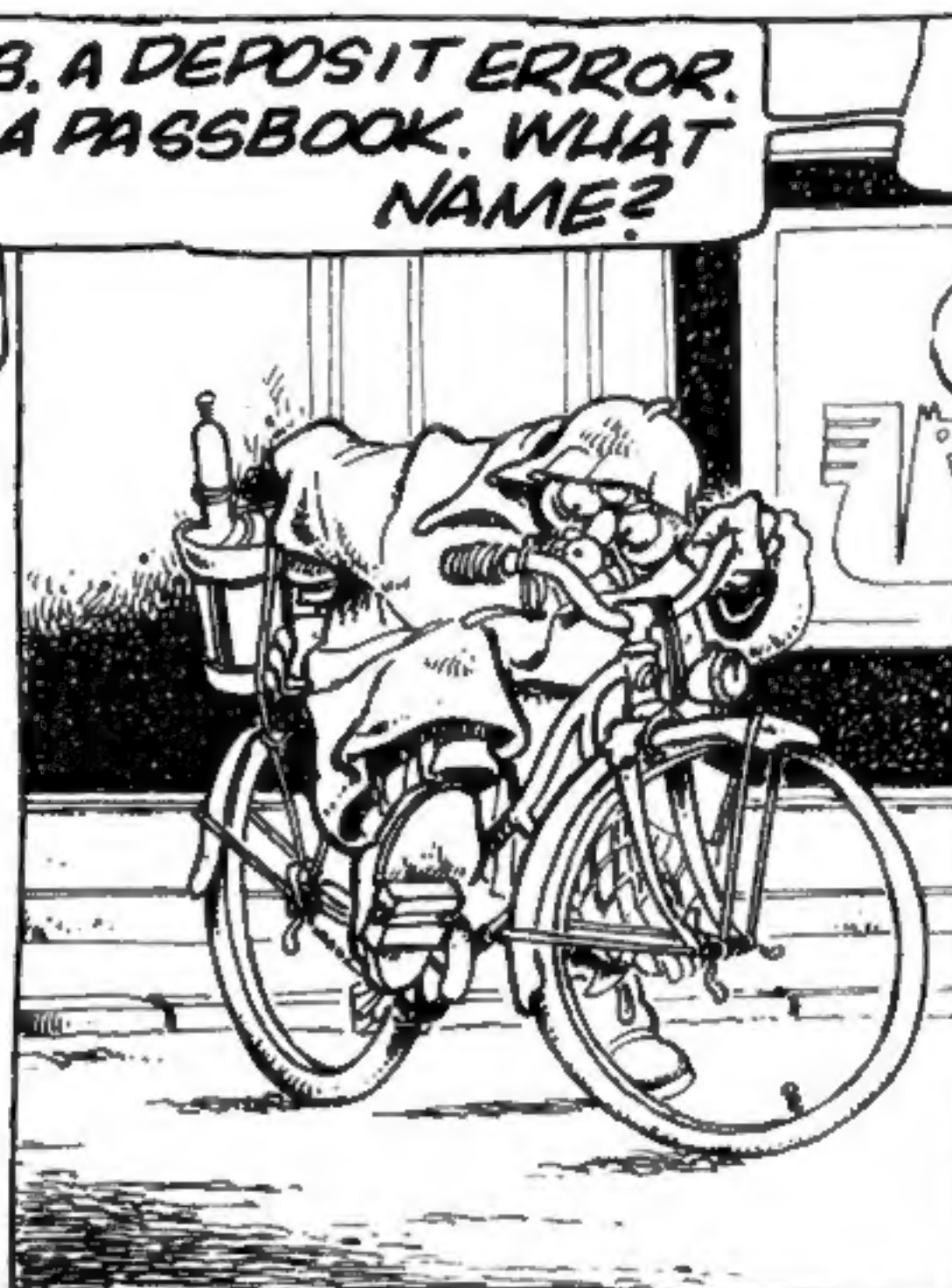
MISS HATCHETT! PLEASE! COME AT ONCE!



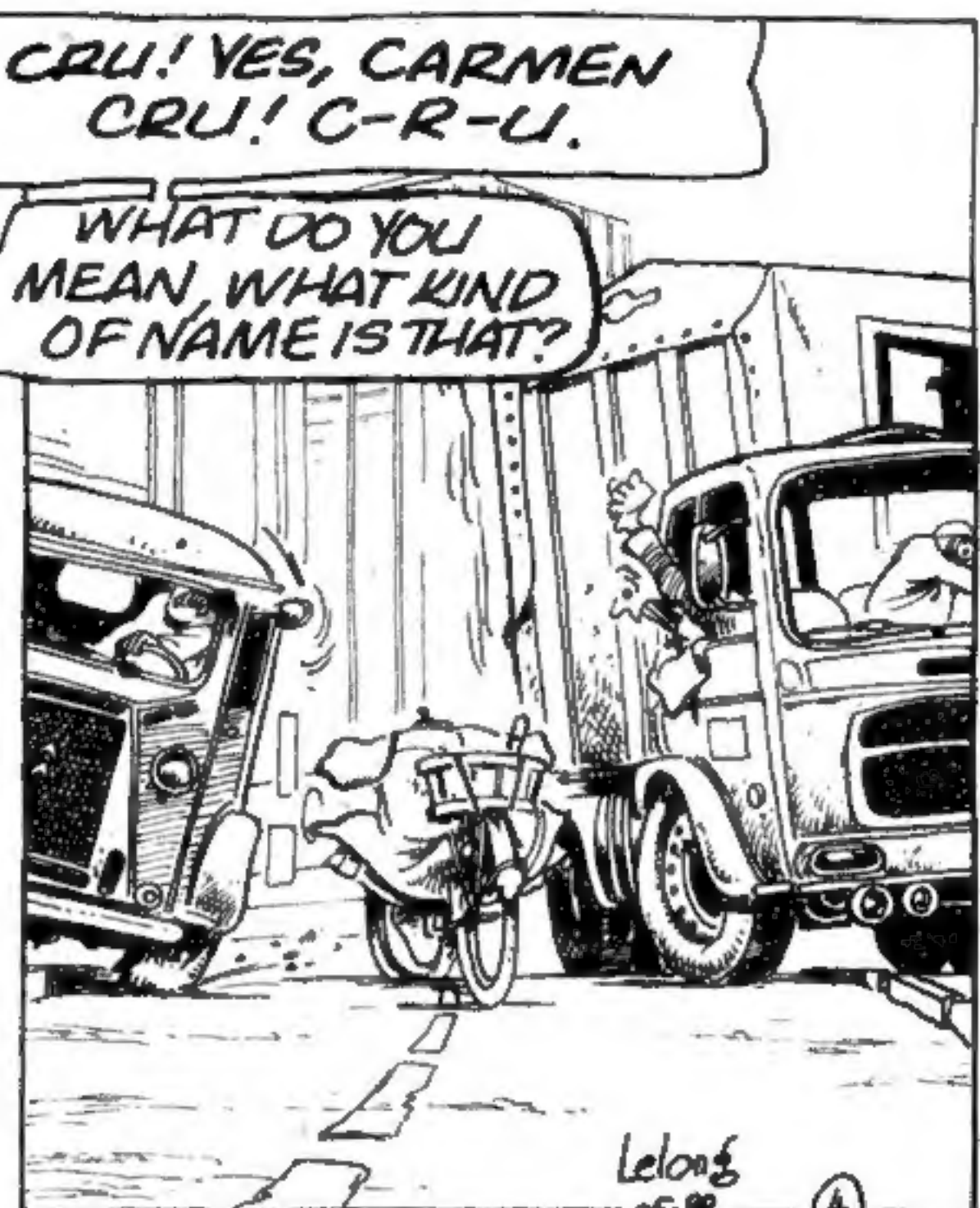
CALL THE HEAD OFFICE! DATA PROCESSING! THEY HAVE TO MAKE A CORRECTION!



HELP ME TIE MY BASKET INSTEAD OF SCREAMING LIKE THAT.



YES. A DEPOSIT ERROR. ON A PASSBOOK. WHAT NAME?

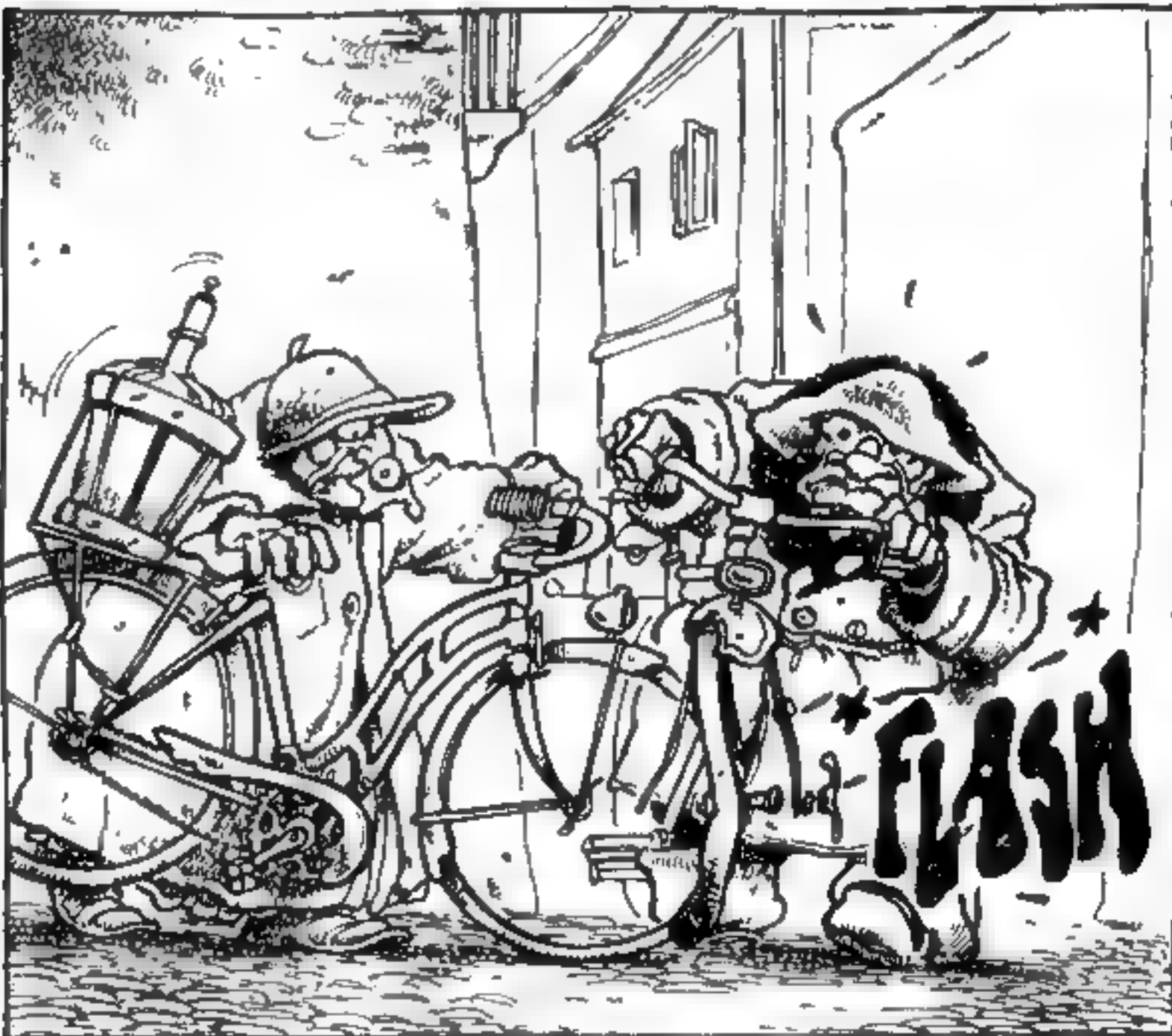
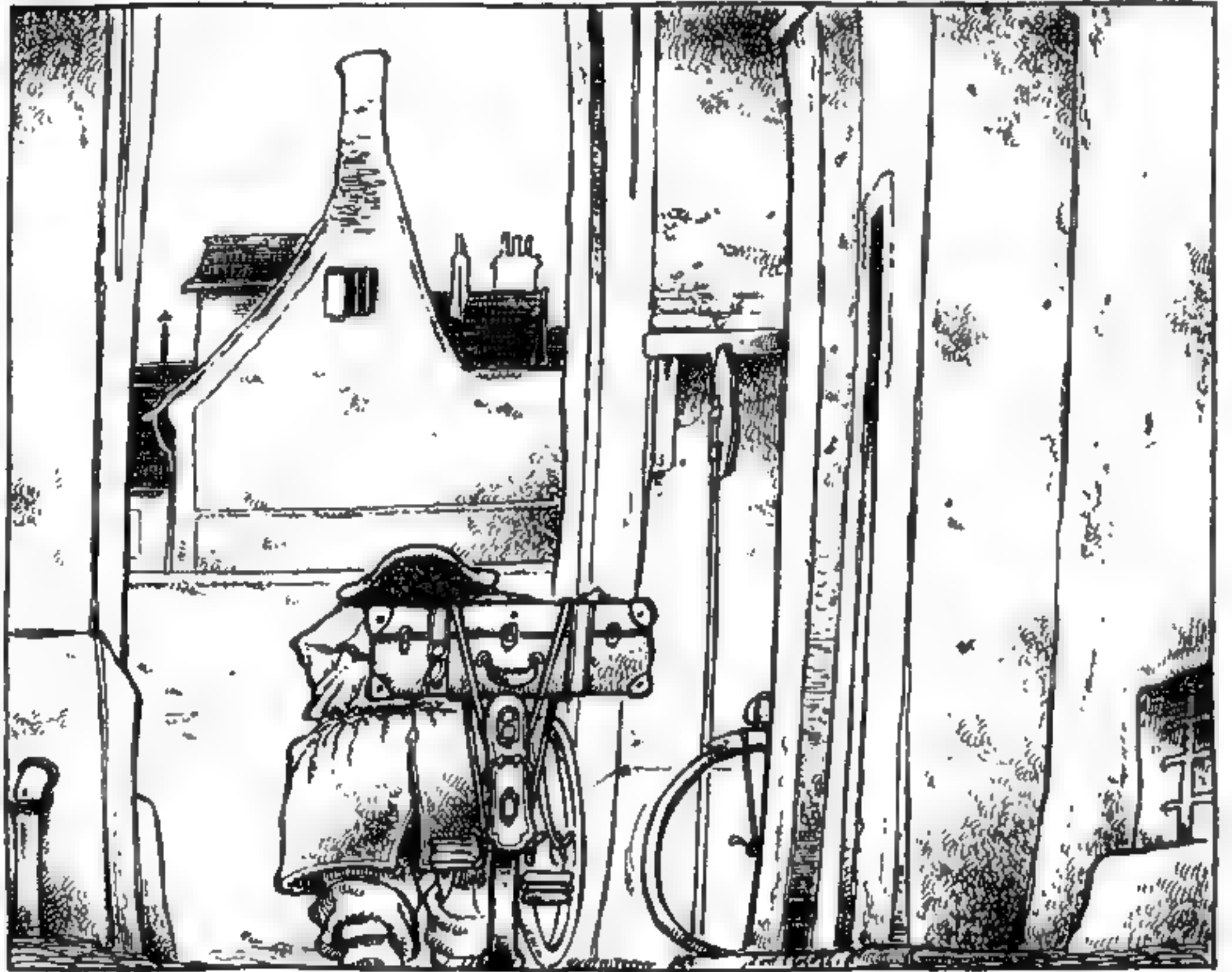
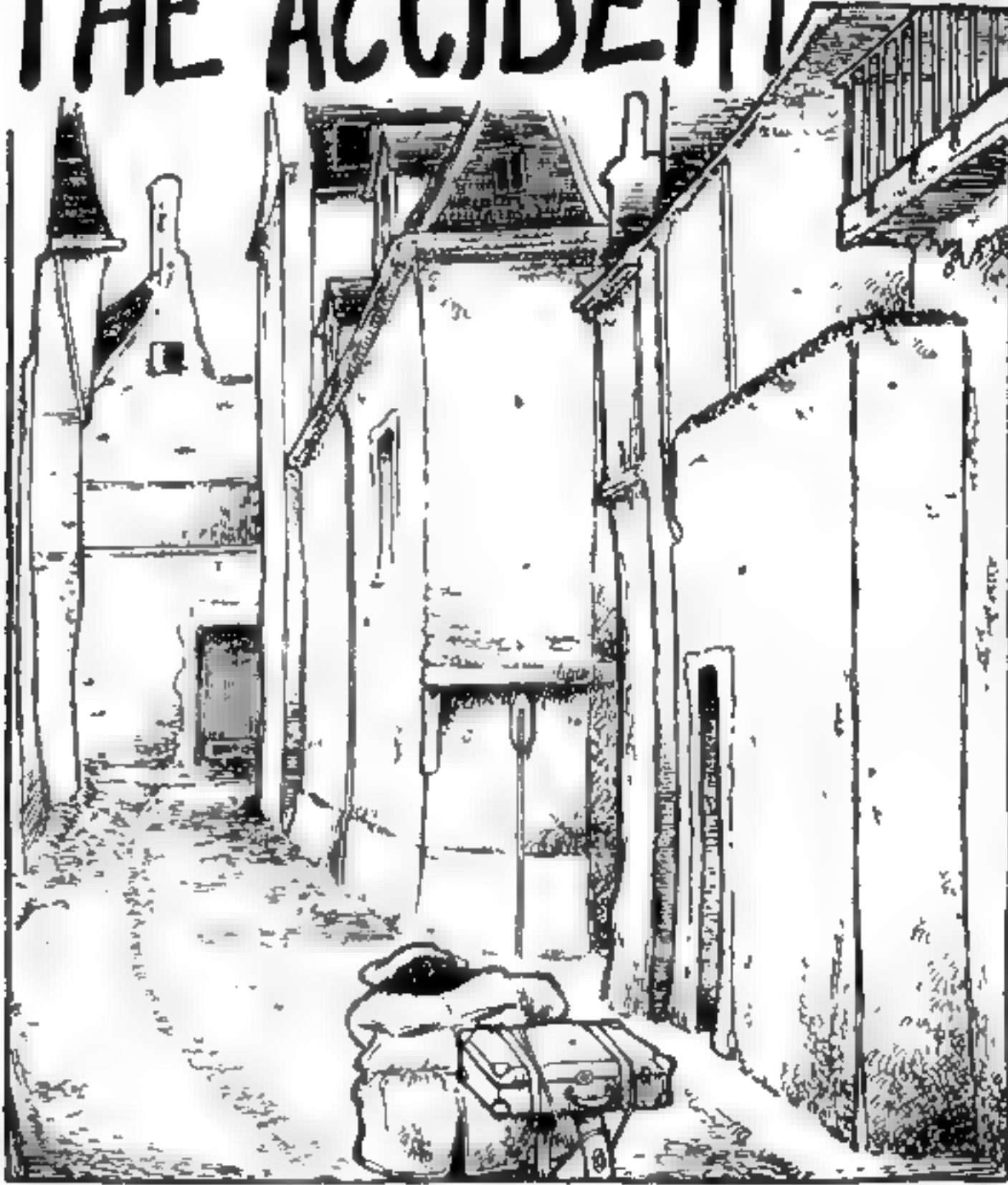


CRU! YES, CARMEN CRU! C-R-U.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT KIND OF NAME IS THAT?



THE ACCIDENT





SURELY YOU JEST, MY DEAR LADY. HOW CAN YOU RIDE THIS BICYCLE WHEN THE MUDGUARD INTERFERES WITH THE GOOD ROTATION OF THE WHEEL.

IT'S OK. I DON'T CARE.



I WILL READILY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I AM NOT MUCH OF AN EXPERT WHEN IT COMES TO BICYCLES. I ONLY TOOK MINE TO CARRY THIS SUITCASE TO MY AUNT WHO LIVES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN...

I DON'T CARE.



IN FACT, I NEVER RIDE ONE BECAUSE MY LEGS ARE TOO SHORT. MY FEET DON'T REACH THE PEDALS, YOU SEE.

I DON'T CARE.



YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO PEDAL WITH ONLY THE VERY TIPS OF YOUR FEET...



THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS HOLD MY BICYCLE BY THE HANDLEBAR, LIKE TODAY. IT'S GOOD TO TAKE IT OUT ONCE IN A WHILE.

I DON'T CARE.



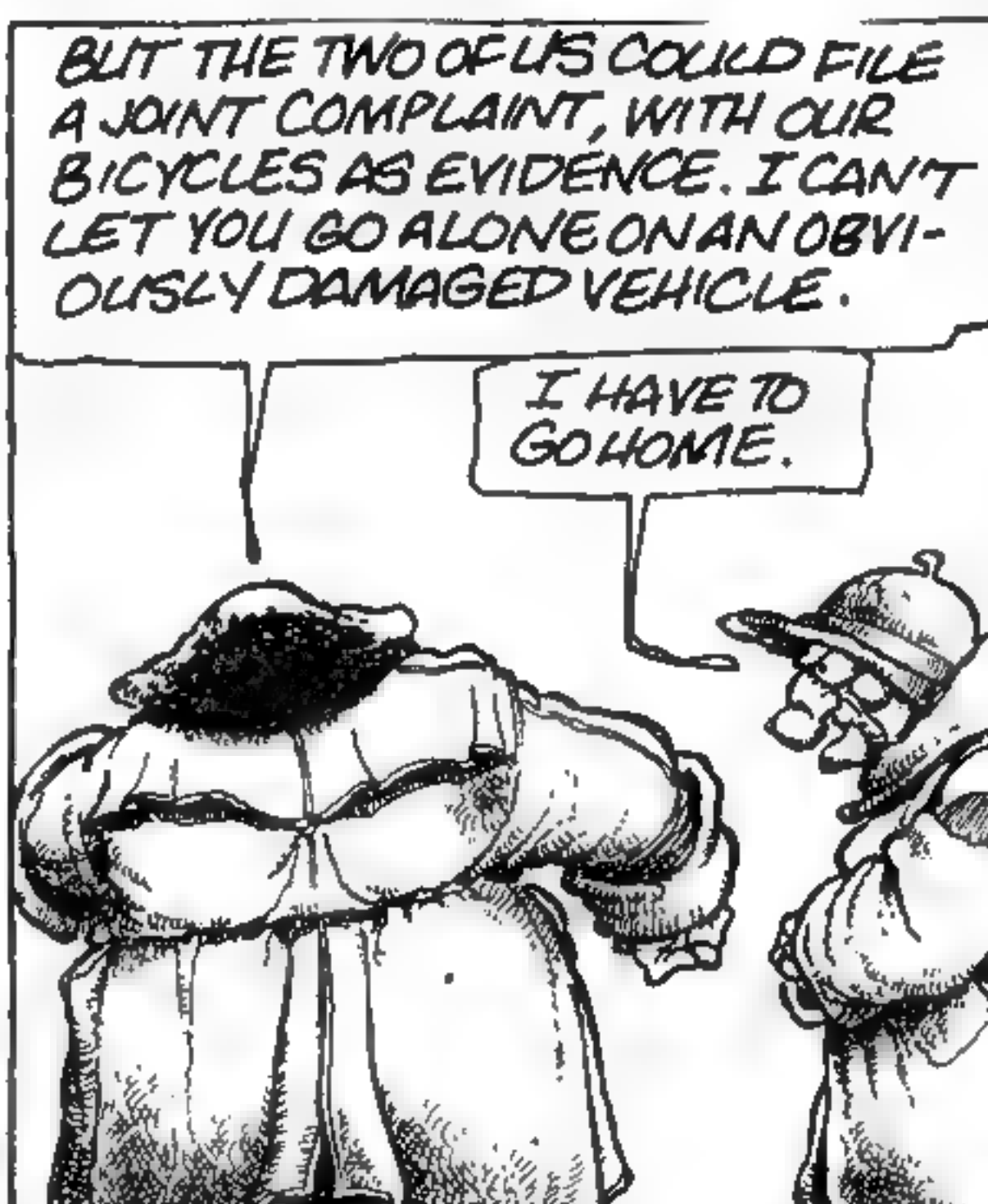
BUT SURELY, MY DEAR LADY, I CAN'T ABANDON YOU HERE, PROBABLY WHIPPLED, WITH YOUR DAMAGED VEHICLE, AT AN INTERSECTION WHERE THERE'S ONLY ONE STOP SIGN.

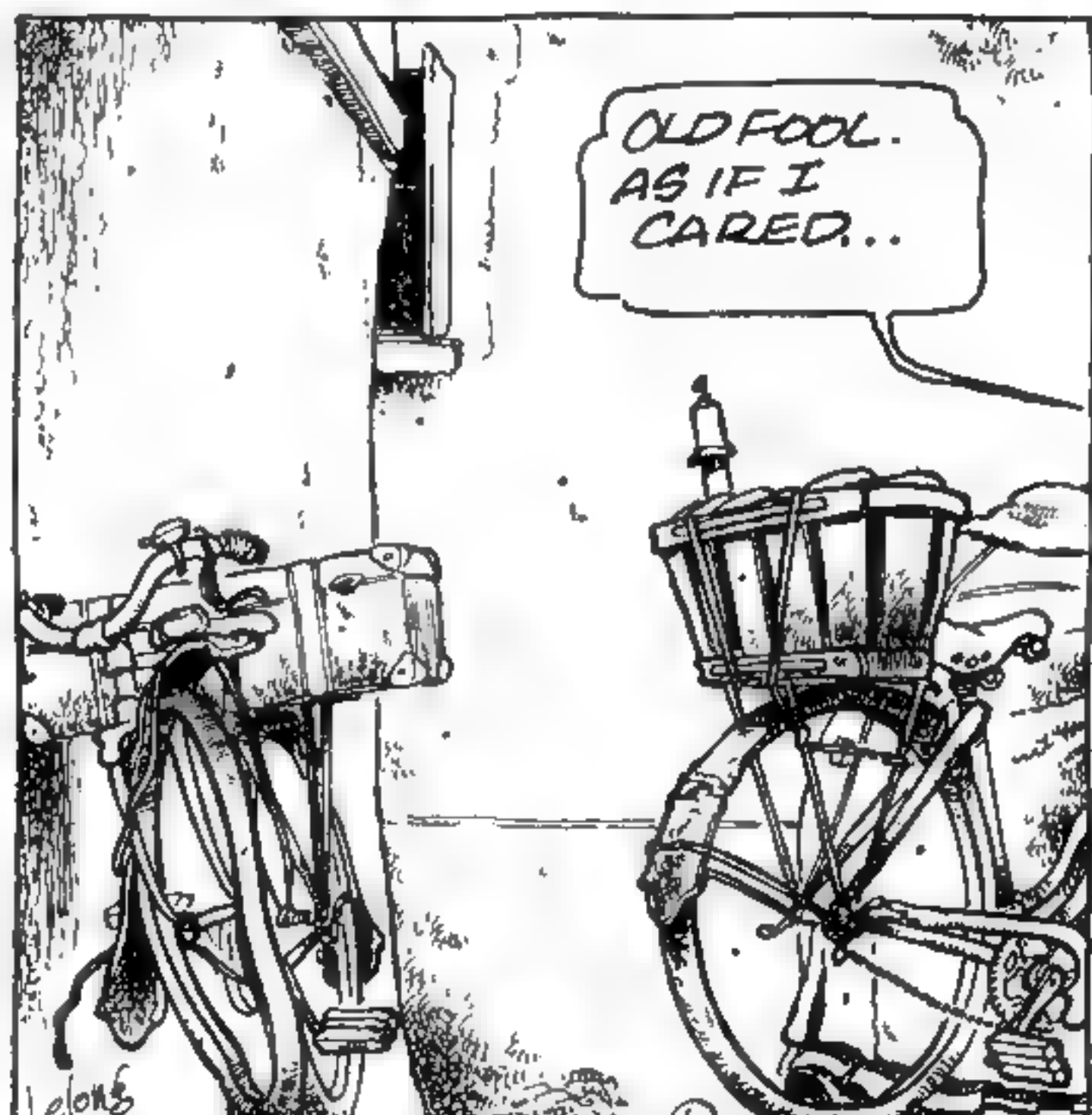
I'M FINE.



IN A WAY, I FEEL RESPONSIBLE, YOU SEE, BECAUSE IF I HAD KNOWN THERE WAS A STOP SIGN AT THIS LOCATION, I WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL, AND WE COULD HAVE AVOIDED THIS UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT.

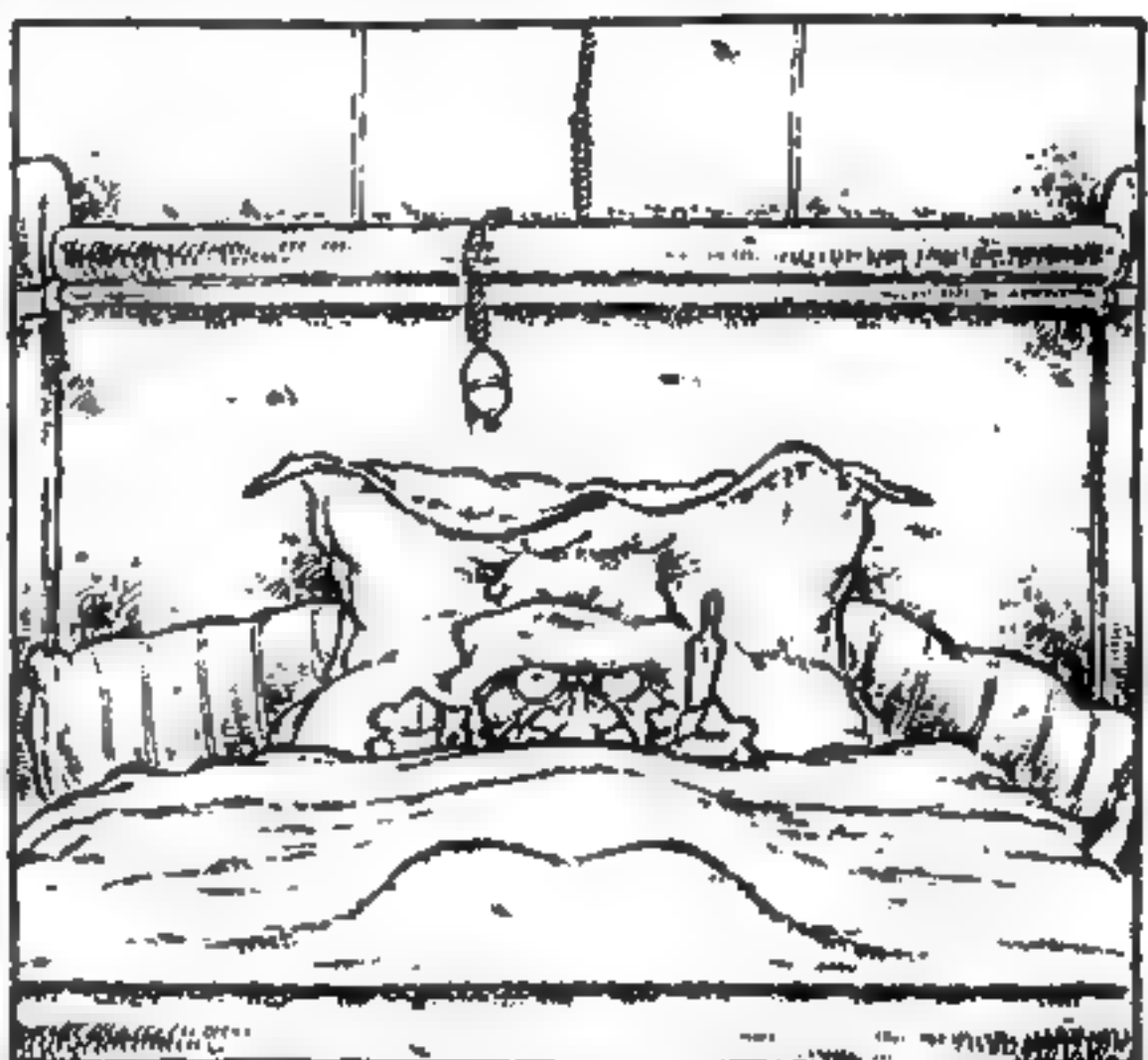
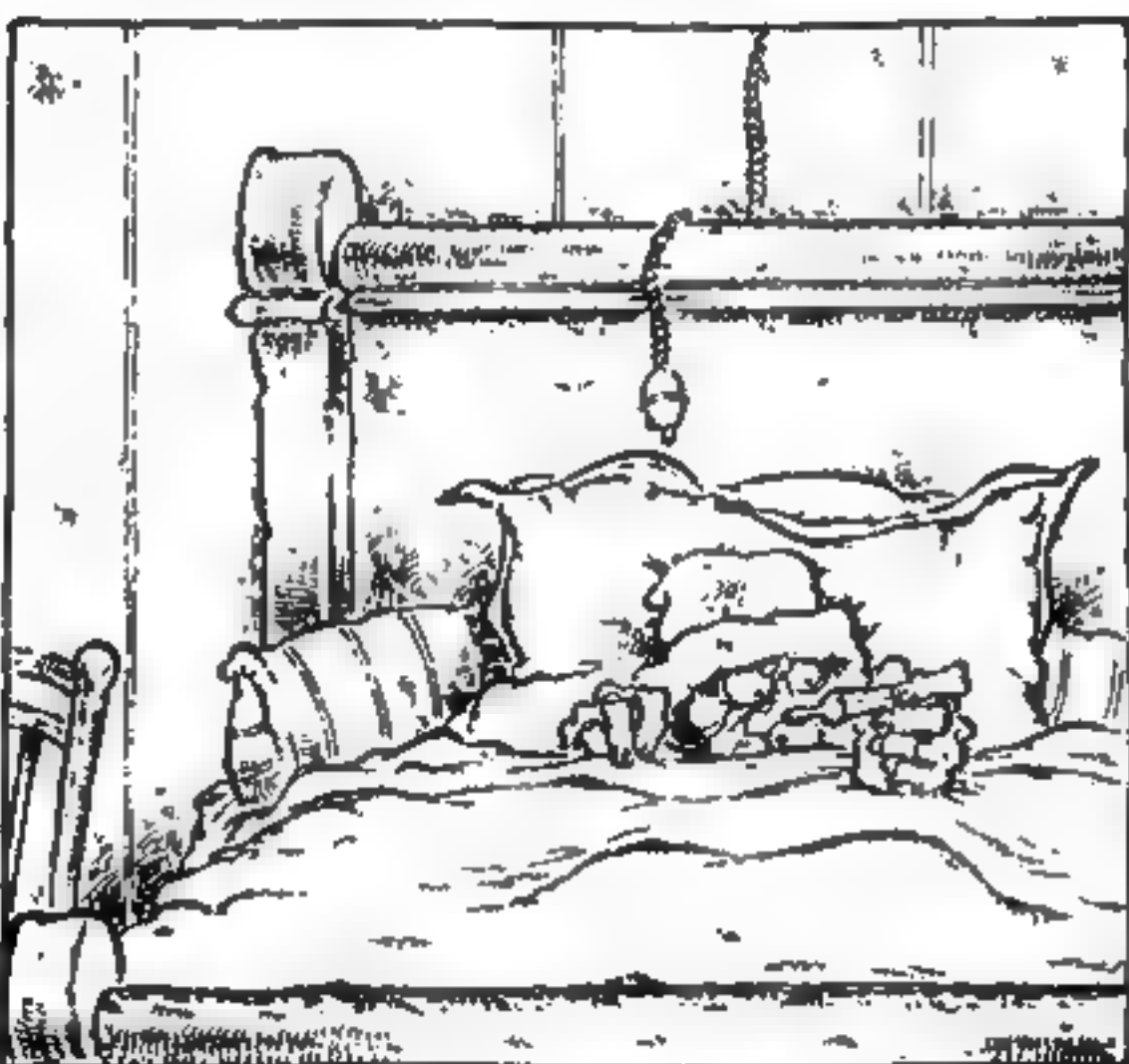
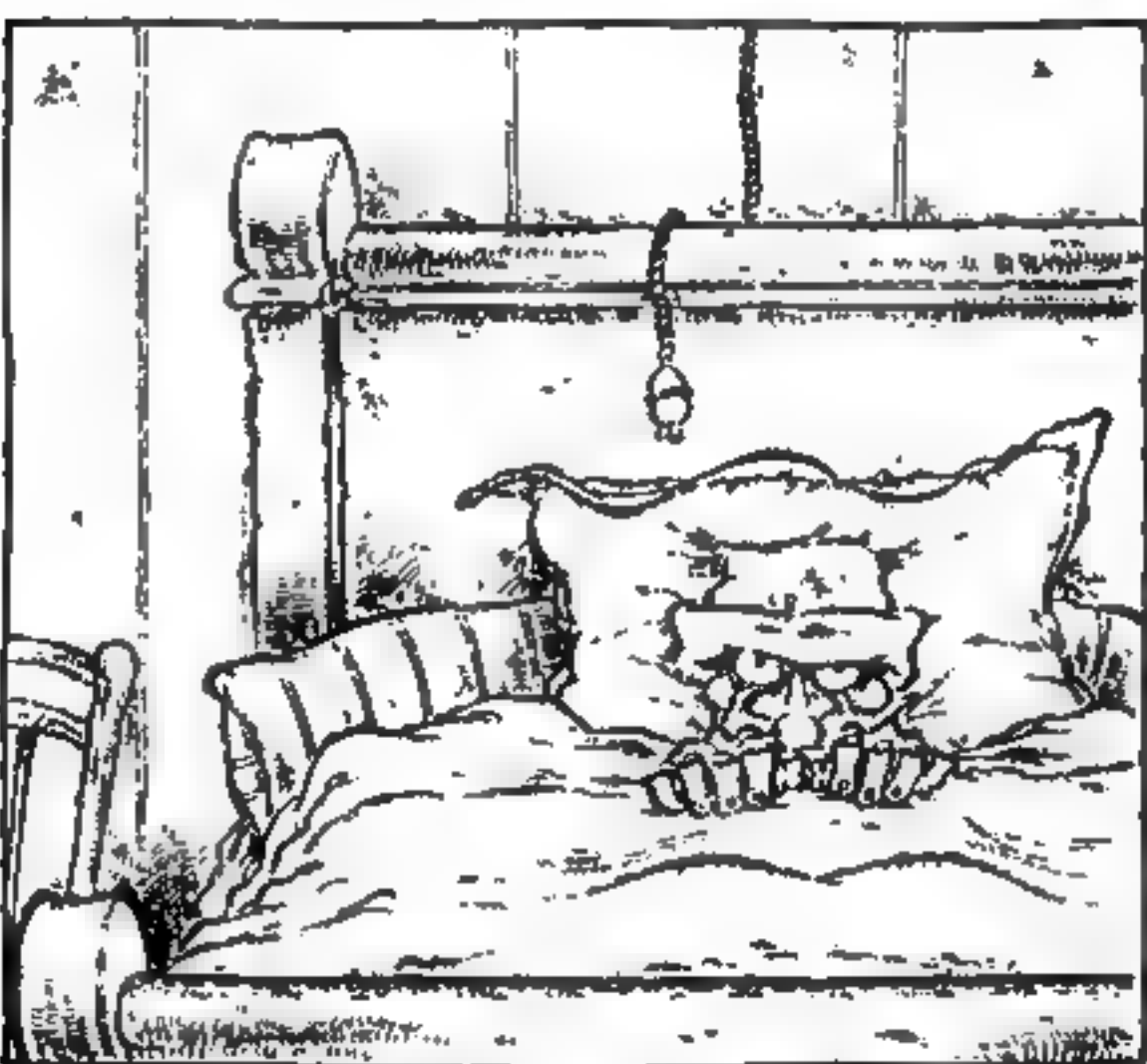
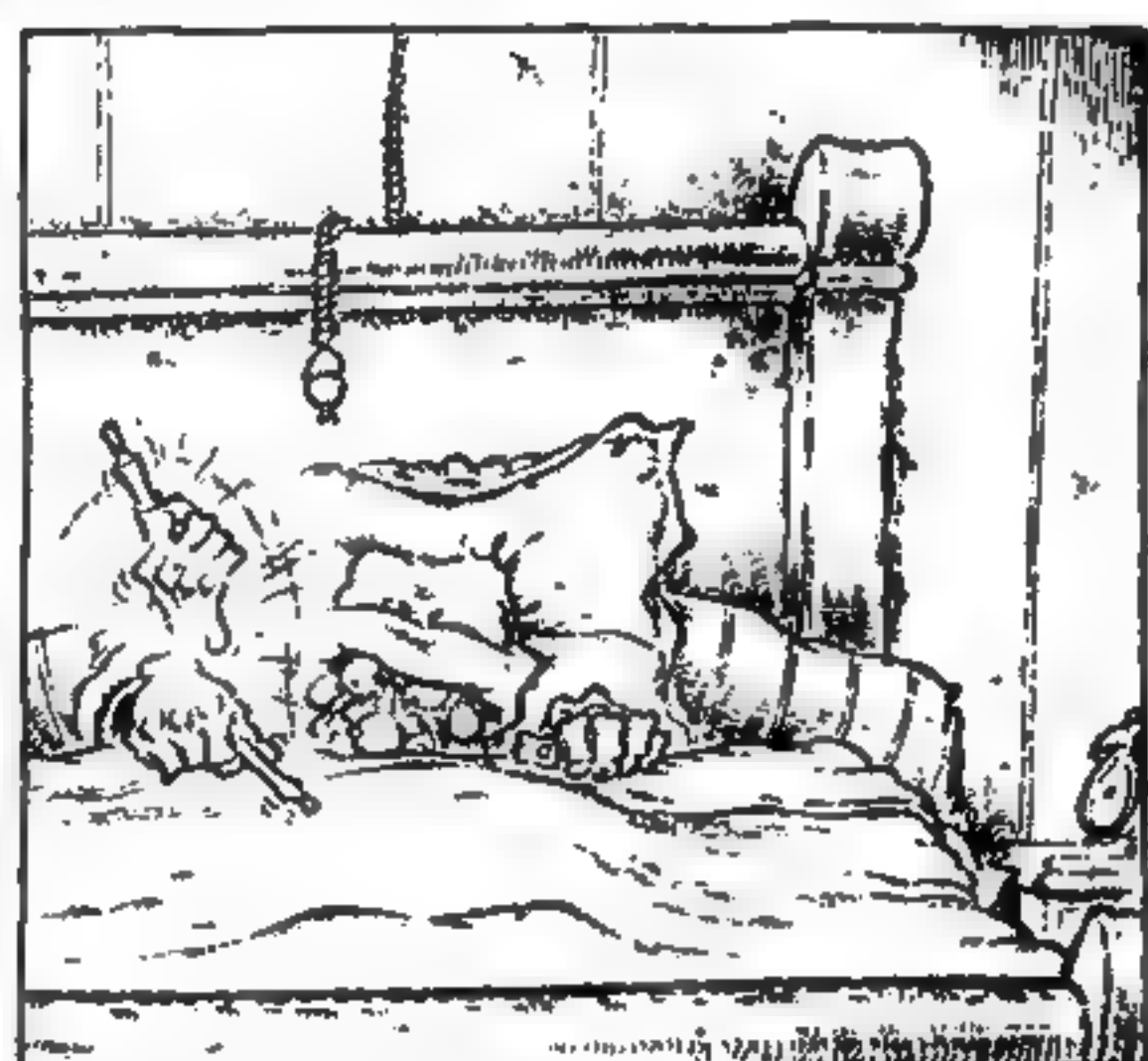
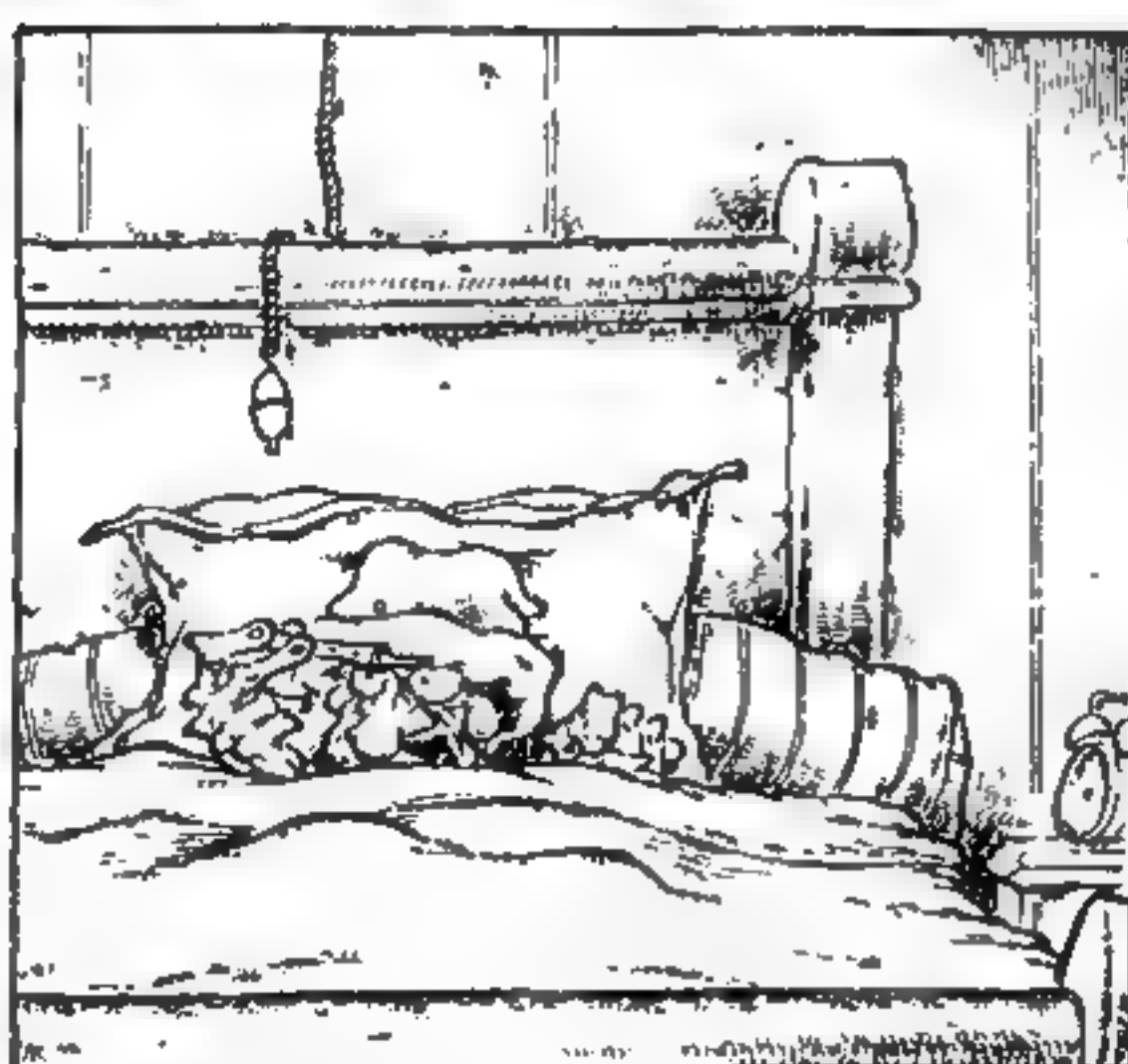
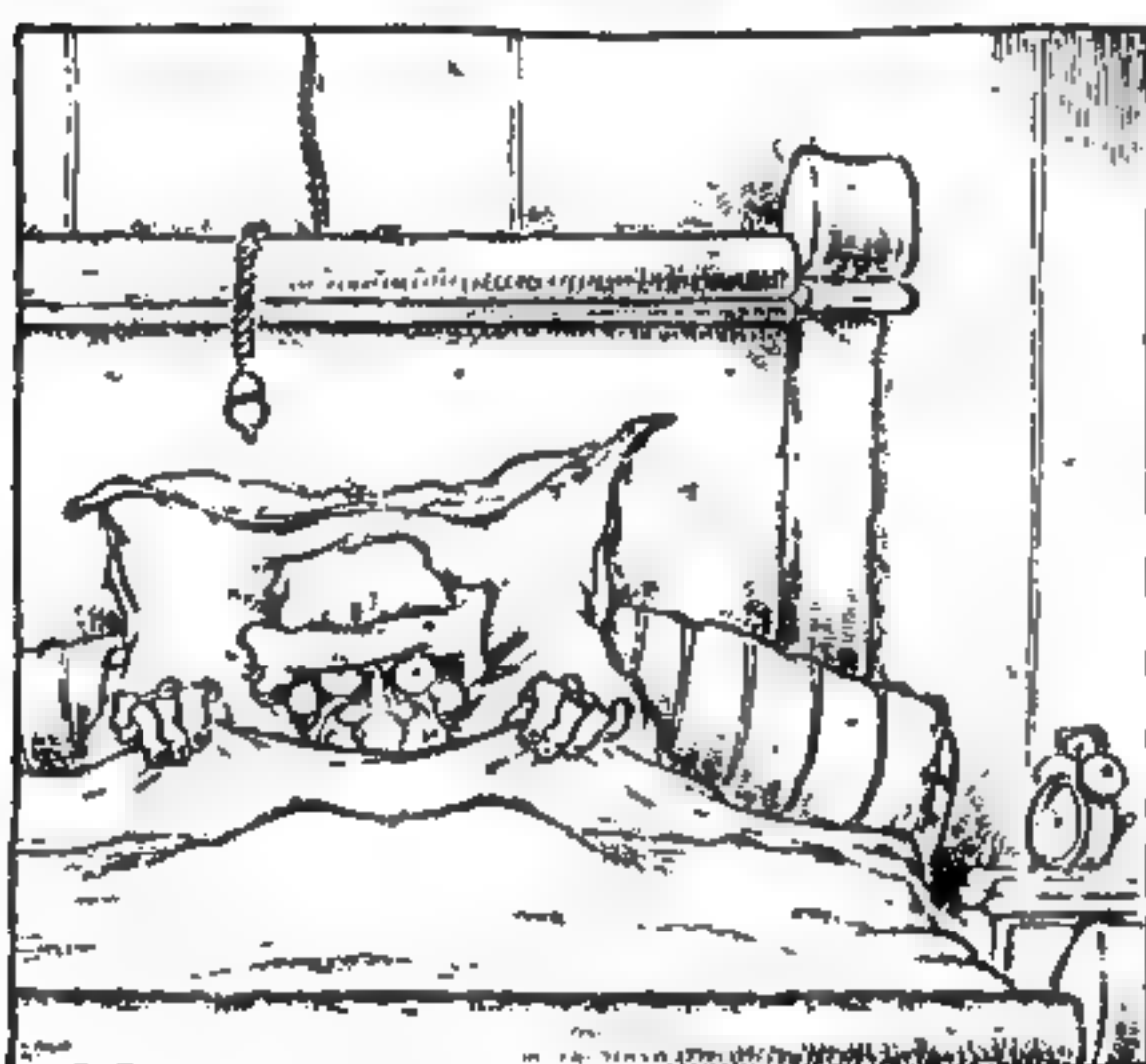


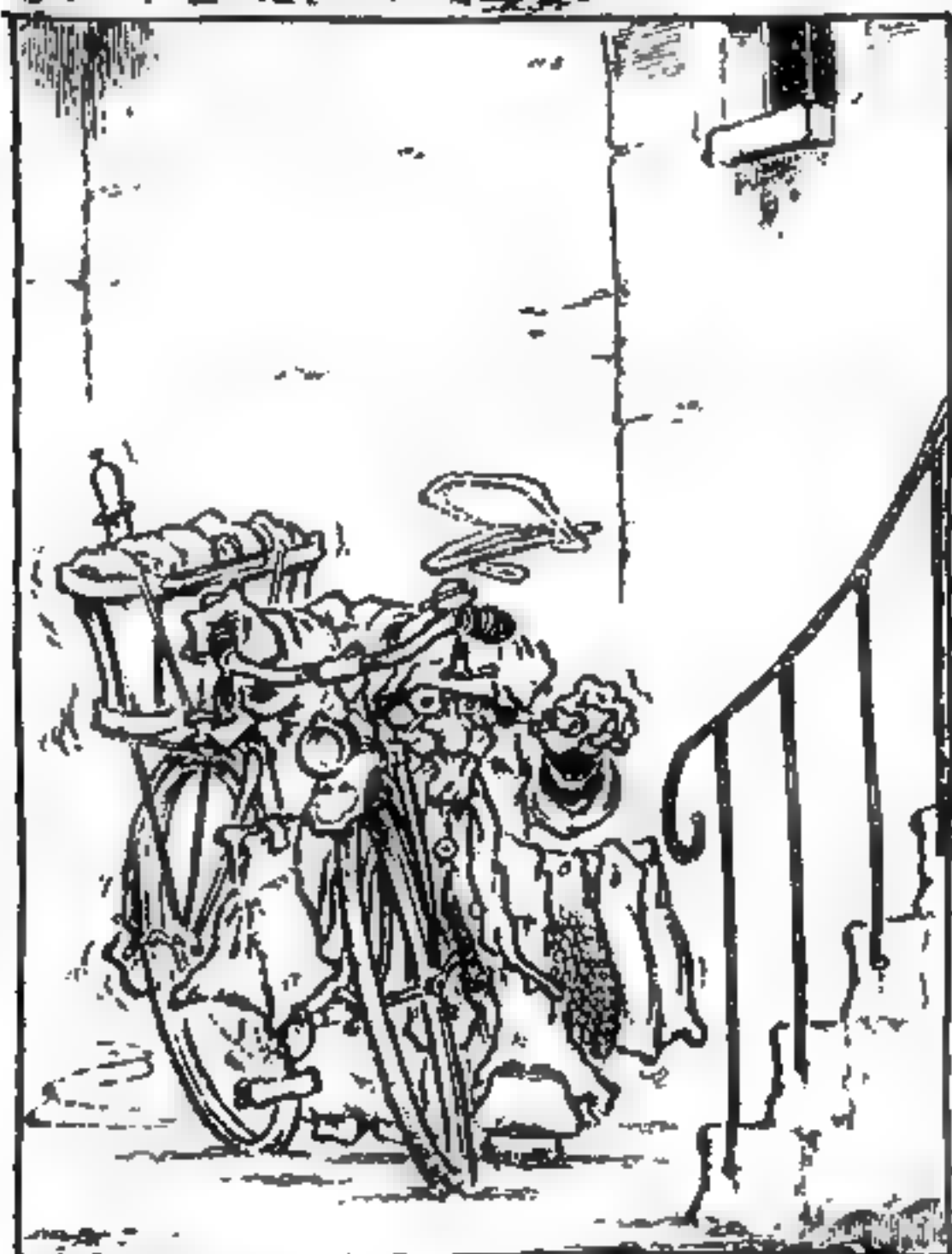




CARMEN
CRU

The Fever





TAKE MY
BIKE
UP.

HEY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON,
GRANNY? YOU DON'T
LOOK SO GOOD TODAY.
YOU'RE AS WHITE AS MY
ASS AND YOU'RE ALL
SHAKIN'. DID YOU
CATCH THE FLU?



I'M NOT SICK. IF
I WAS SICK, I'D
KNOW IT. IT'S
BECAUSE IT'S
GOTTEN COLDER.



COLDER? MY ASS!
IT'S HOT LIKE HELL. I
TELL YA, GRANNY, YOU
SHOULD GEE A DOCTOR.
AT YER AGE, IT'S A SHORT
HOP FROM HERE INTO
THE HOLE, IF YOU
CATCH MY DRIFT.



I TELL YOU I'M
PERFECTLY FINE. I'VE
NEVER BEEN SICK IN MY
WHOLE LIFE AND I'M
NOT GOING TO START
NOW.



DID YOU SEE
THE OL' WOMAN,
MOLDONI? SHE
AIN'T GONNA LAST
LONG WITH
THAT FLU...

AAH! IF ONLY
GOD COULD
HEAR YOU, MR.
RAOUL. GOOD
RIDDANCE!
AT LAST!



AH, IT'S YOU,
MRS. CRU! I DIDN'T
SEE YOU. BUT WHAT'S
THE MATTER? YOU'RE
ALL WRAPPED UP.
ARE YOU SICK? DO
YOU HAVE A
FEVER?



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? IS IT A CONSPIRACY? I'M TELLING EVERYONE I FEEL PERFECTLY FINE. YOU'RE THE SICK ONES. LEAVE ME ALONE.

YOU'RE SHAKING LIKE A LEAF. YOUR FEVER IS SO HIGH YOU CAN'T WALK STRAIGHT. LET ME HELP YOU HOME. I'LL TAKE YOUR BIKE. YOU TAKE MY ARM.

DON'T TOUCH MY BIKE. I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. AND STOP FONDLING ME OR I'LL COMPLAIN TO THE POLICE.

IF I WERE YOU, I'D GO AND SEE A DOCTOR, BECAUSE AT YOUR AGE...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY AGE? I'M STRONGER AND FITTER THAN ALL OF YOU.

I FOUND THE OLD WOMAN COU IN THE PARK. SHE LOOKS SICK LIKE DEATH.

THAT'S WHAT I TOLD HER, BUT SHE WON'T LISTEN. LET'S TAKE HER HOME.

NOBODY GOES INSIDE MY HOME WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.

SHUT UP, CARMEN. WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.

YEAH. BUT YOU'VE GOT TO WONDER WHY...

I DON'T NEED TO BE TAKEN CARE OF, BECAUSE I TOLD YOU I'M NOT SICK!

C'MON, CARMEN. DON'T BE DIFFICULT. YA CAN'T EVEN STAND STRAIGHT ON YER FEET.

YA CAN'T OPEN THE DOOR, 'CAUSE YER SHAKIN' WORSE THAN ME. GINME YER KEYS, I'LL DO IT FER YA.

IT'S ONLY A SMALL ATTACK OF MALARIA. OTHERWISE, I'M FINE. GO AWAY. YOU'RE BOTHERING ME.



MALARIA? BUT YOU ONLY GET THAT IN TROPICAL COUNTRIES!

I GOT IT FROM MY LATE HUSBAND AFTER HE CAME BACK FROM A TRIP. BUT I'M NOT SICK. GOOD-BYE.



THAT'S ALL THE THANKS WE GET?! AH, SHE CAN CROAK FOR ALL I CARE!

MALARIA! I THOUGHT THAT'S ONLY TRANSMITTED BY MOSQUITOS...



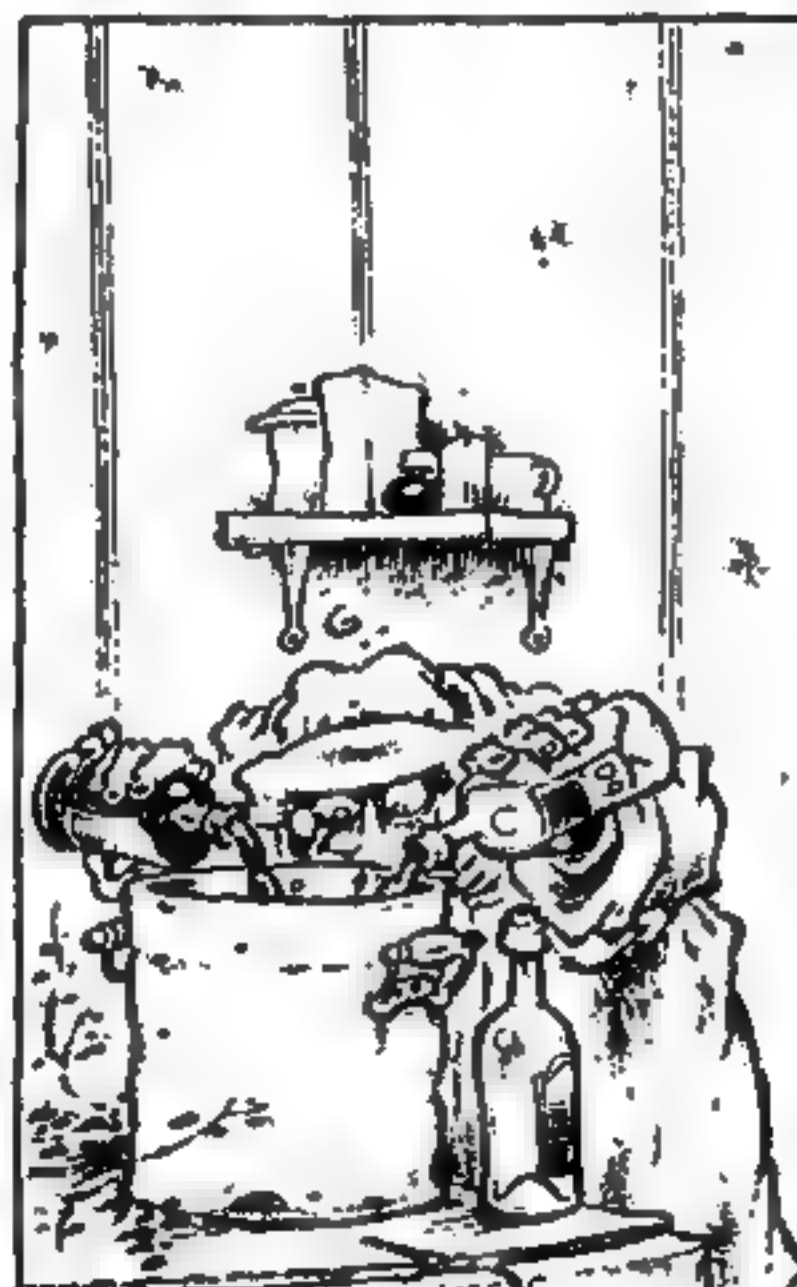
DO YOU THINK IT'S CONTAGIOUS, MR. RAOUL?

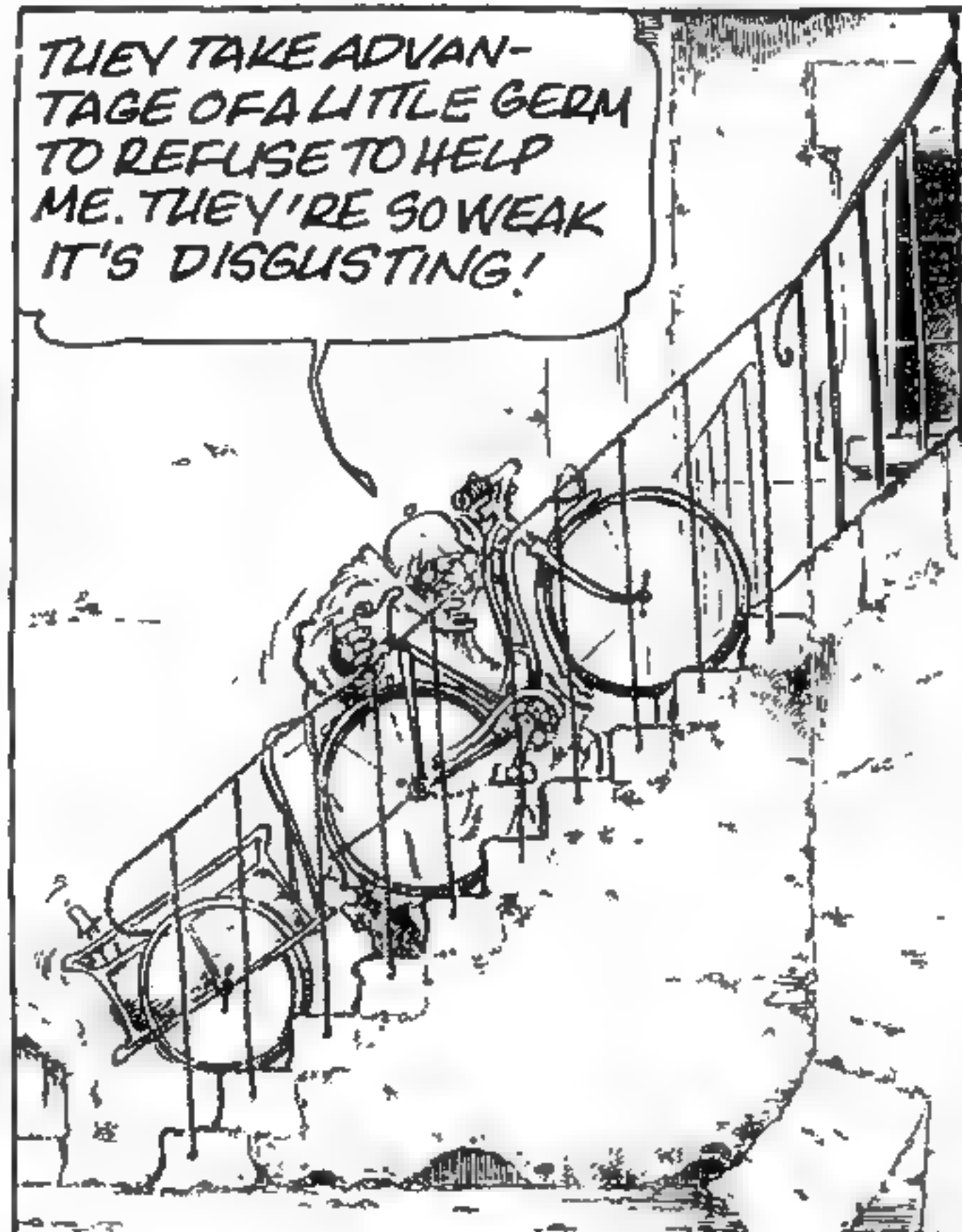
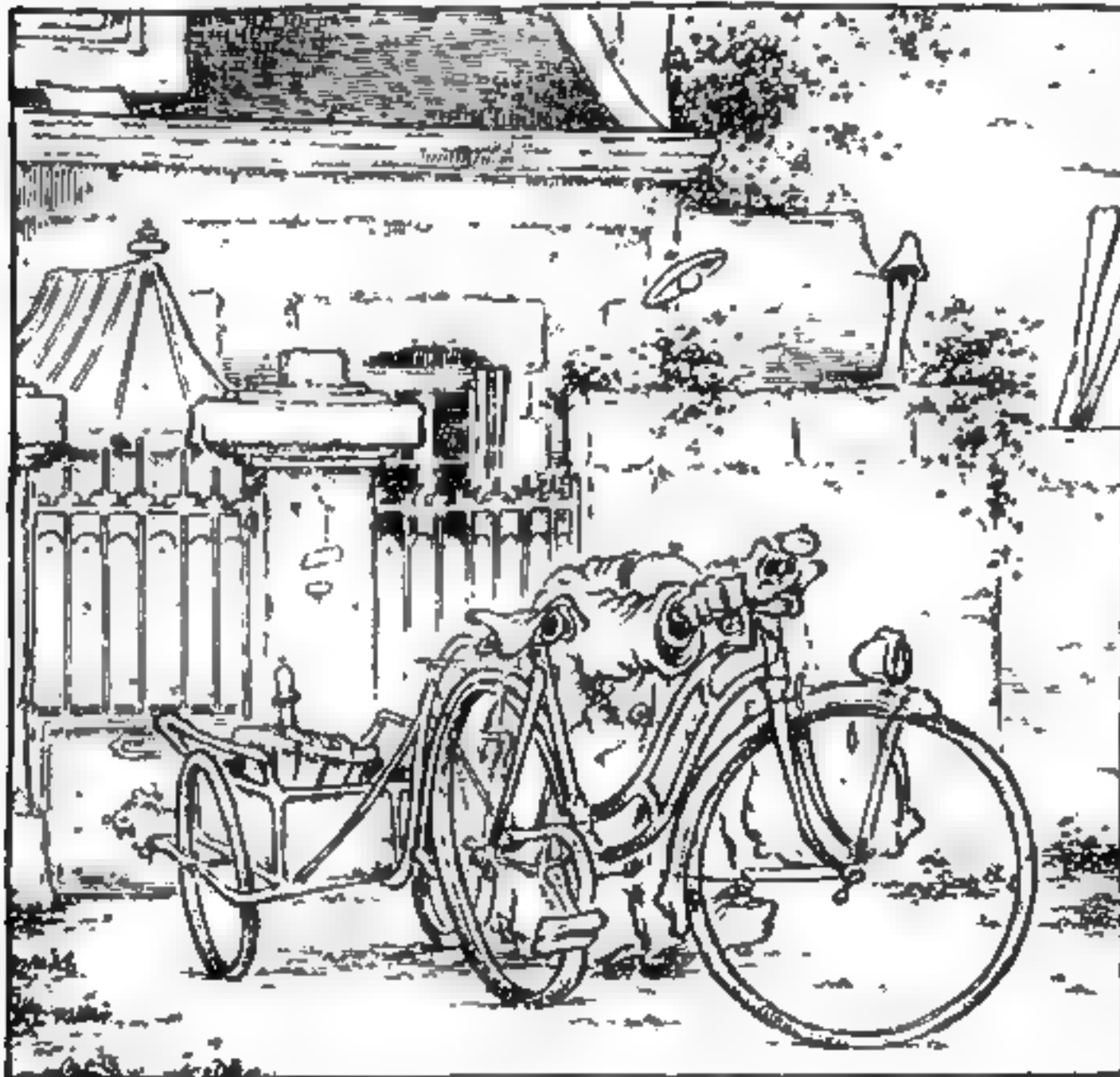
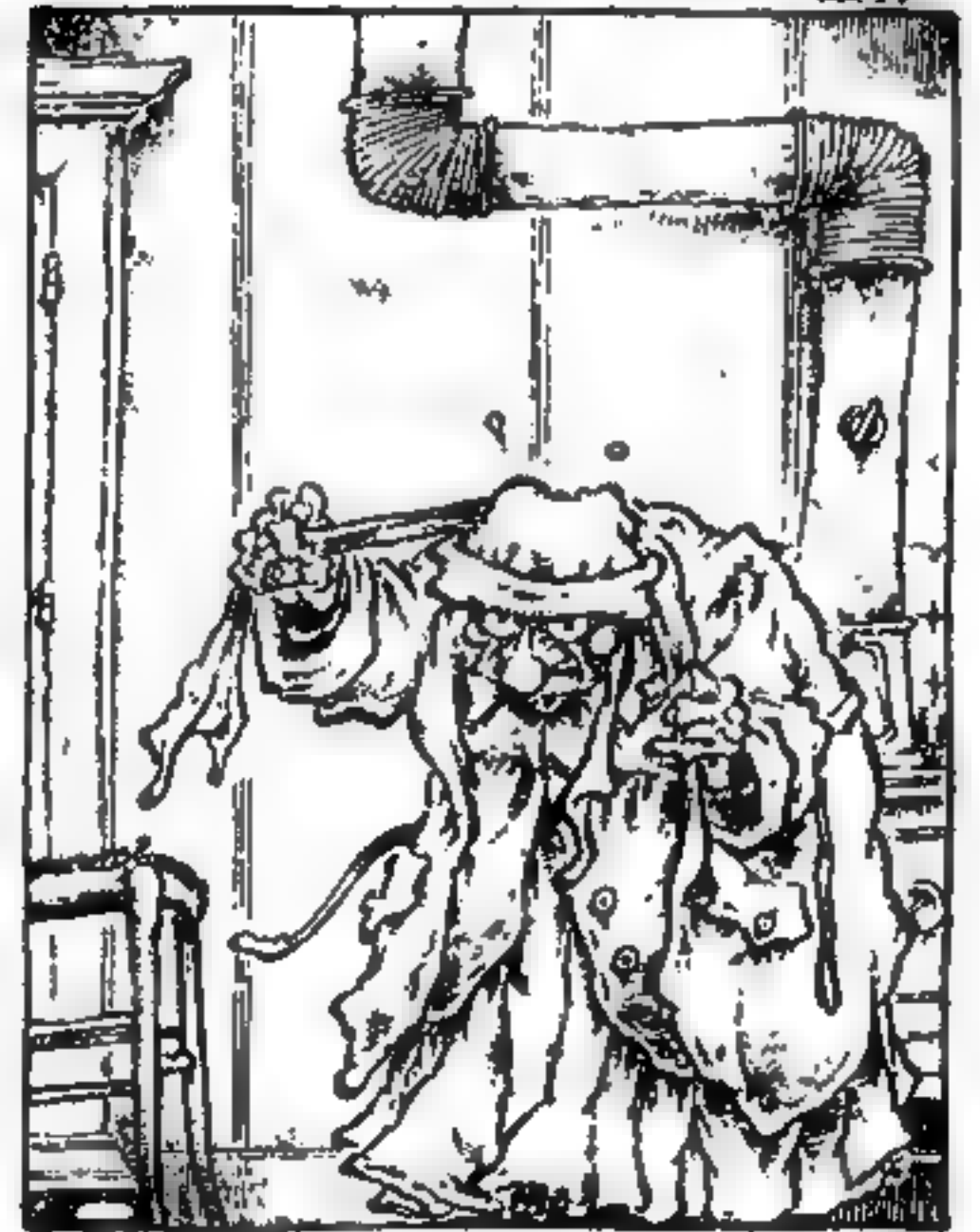
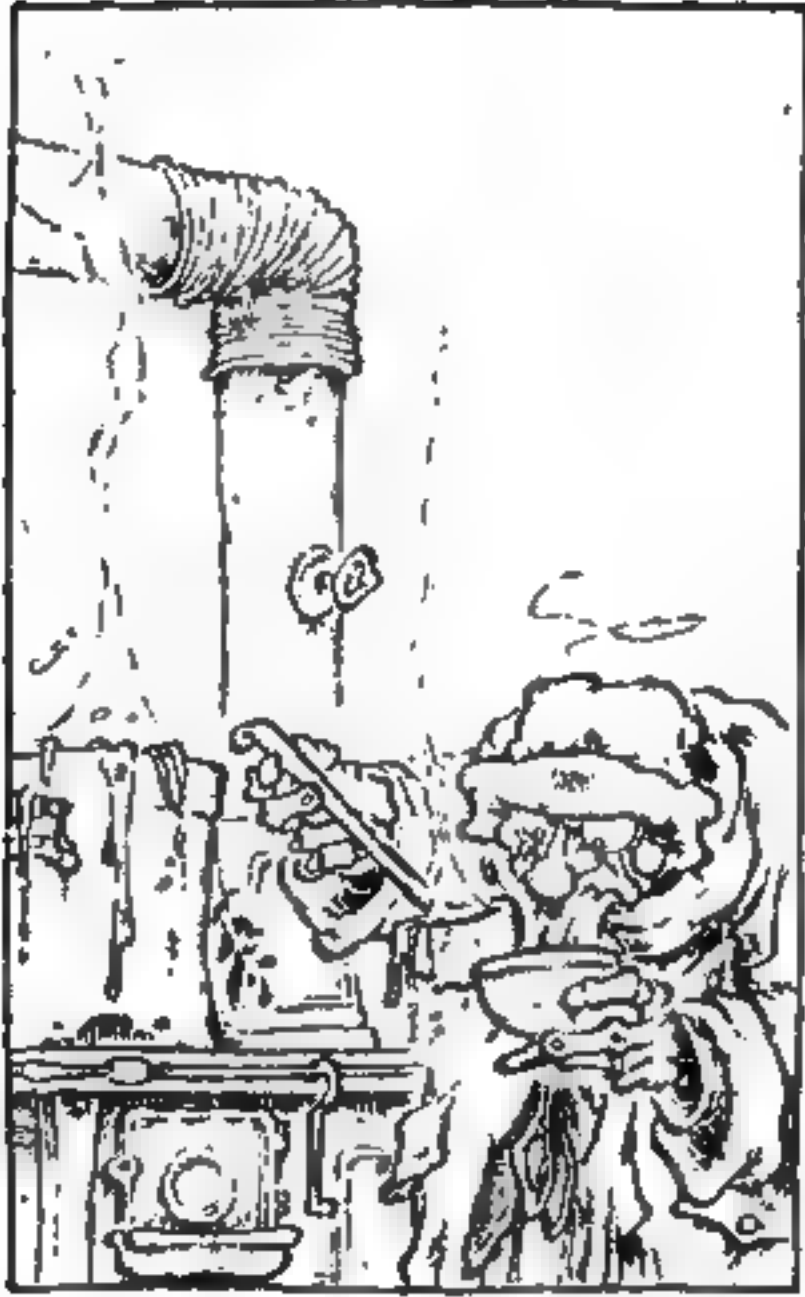


BECAUSE WE BOTH TOUCHED HER AND MAYBE SHE GAVE US THE GERMS. I WISH SHE'D TOLD US BEFORE.



HEY, I AMN'T SCARED OF NO GERMS! I KILL 'EM WITH ALCOHOL. IT'S A SURE CURE. COME ON, WE'LL START WITH SOME WINE...







MAD

ON
TV

TONIGHT WE'RE BACK FOR YET ANOTHER EXCITING ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON THE THEME: **THE DOG, MAN'S BEST FRIEND.**

WITH US IN THE STUDIO ARE TWO GUESTS READY AND WILLING TO SHARE WITH US THEIR VAST EXPERIENCE OF BEING MAN AND DOG...

SO LET'S GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO MISTER ROBERT BIDOCHON AND HIS DOG... WELCOME!

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU!

MR. ROBERT BIDOCHON IS WEARING A MASK TONIGHT BECAUSE HE WANTED TO KEEP HIS IDENTITY A SECRET. ISN'T THAT THE REASON, MR. BIDOCHON?

YES, INDEED!

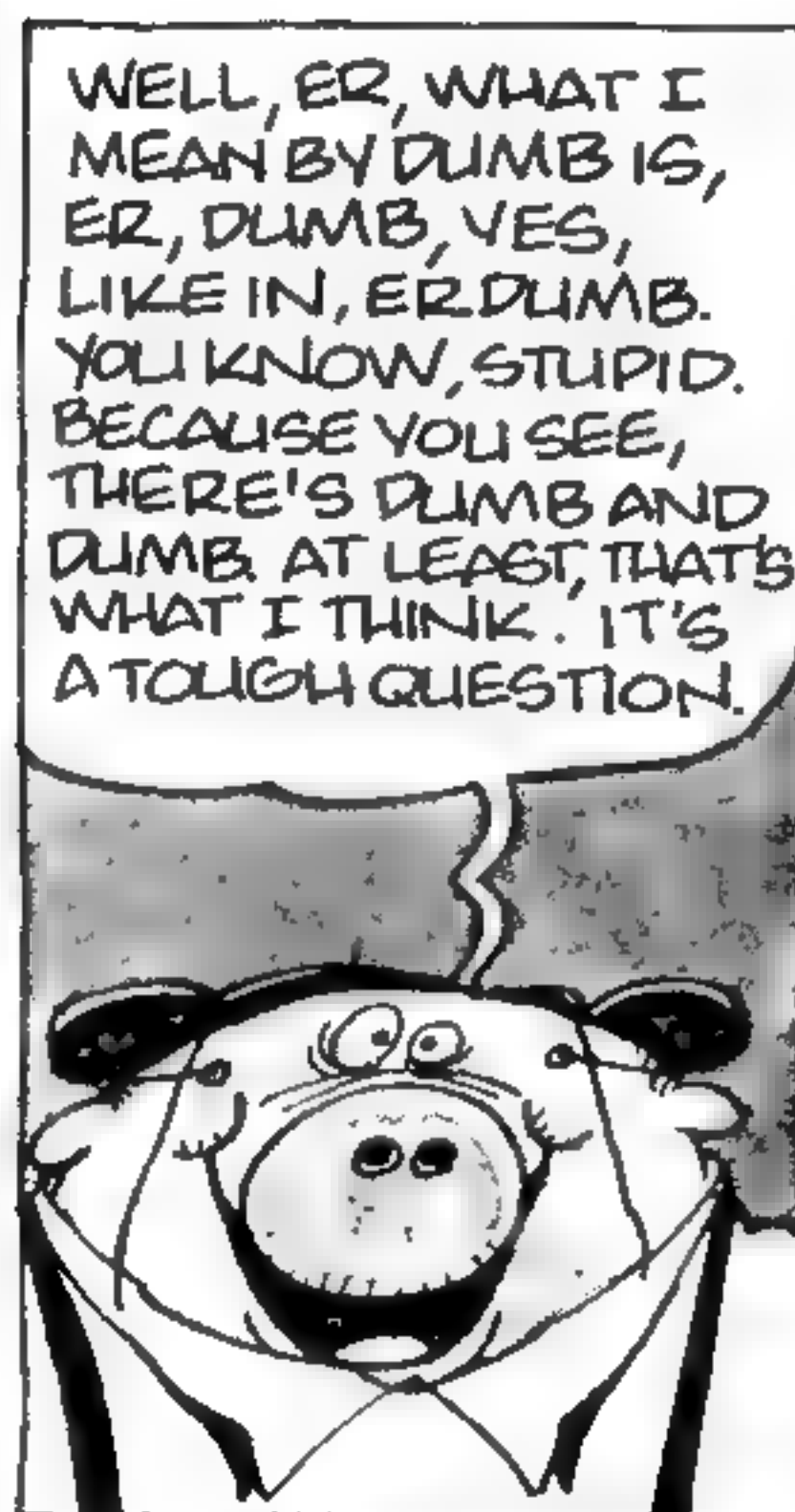
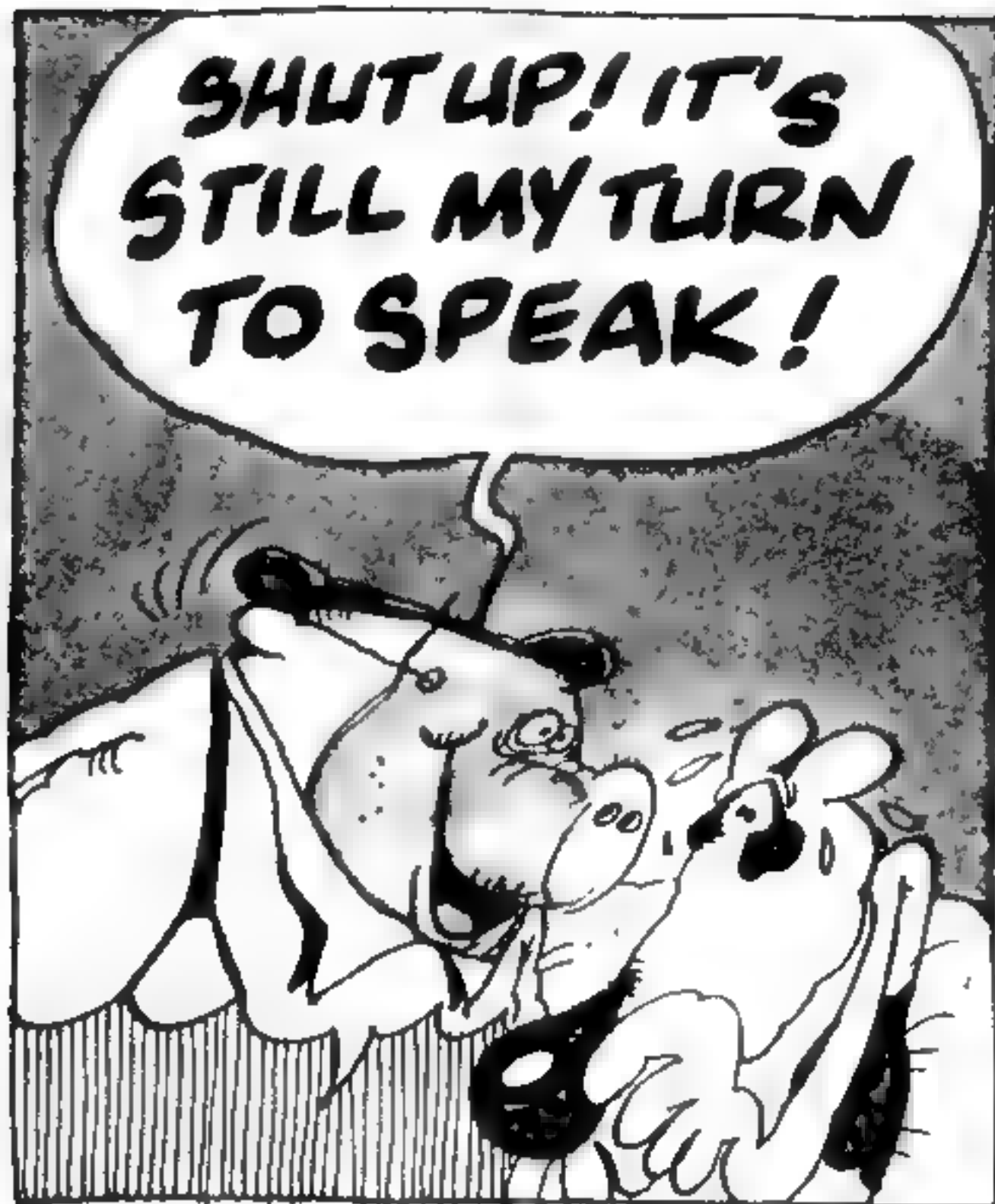
NEXT TO HIM IS HIS DOG WHO WE WILL REFER TO AS "MR. X'S DOG" IN ORDER TO KEEP HIS MASTER'S IDENTITY SECRET!

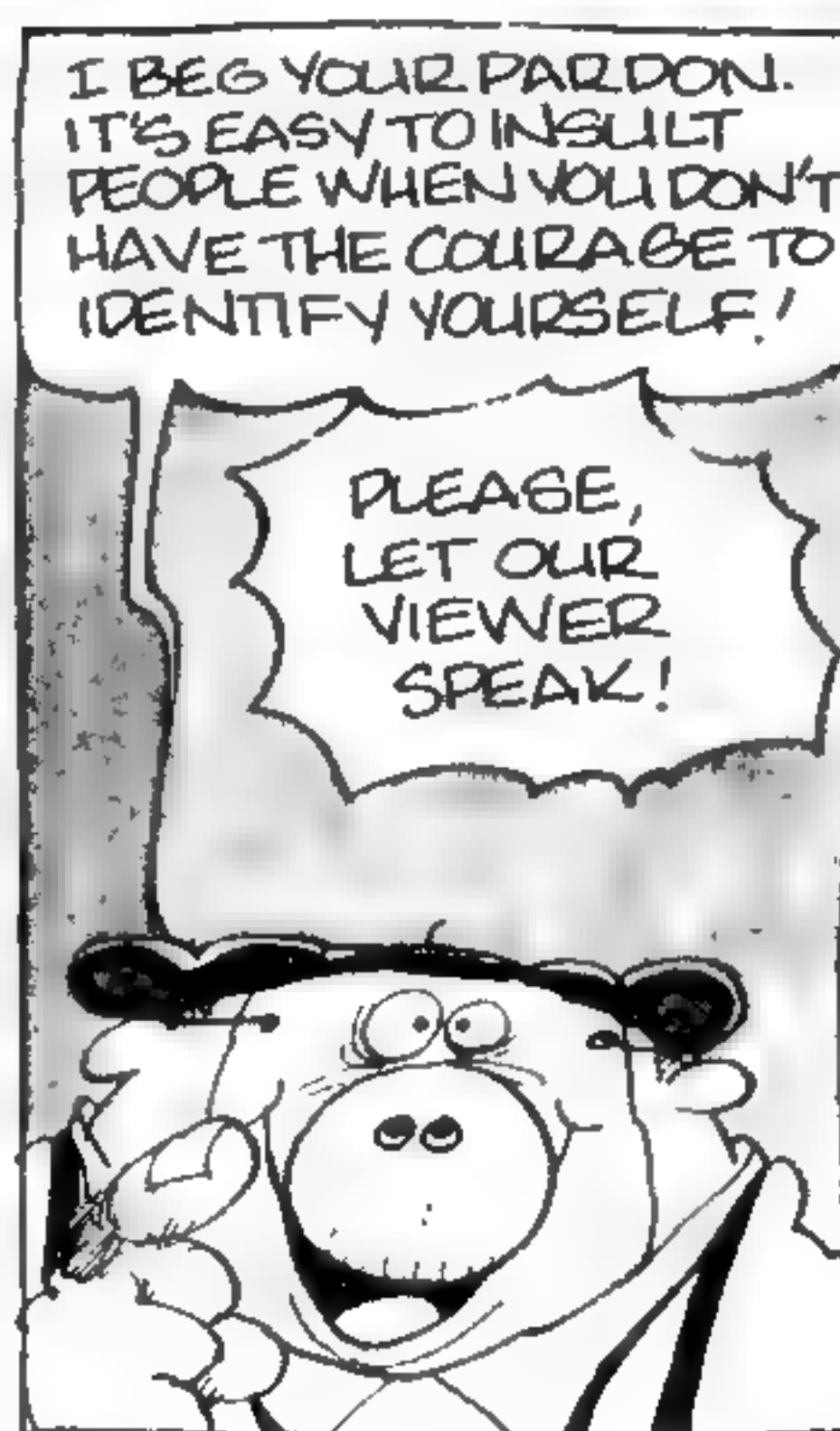
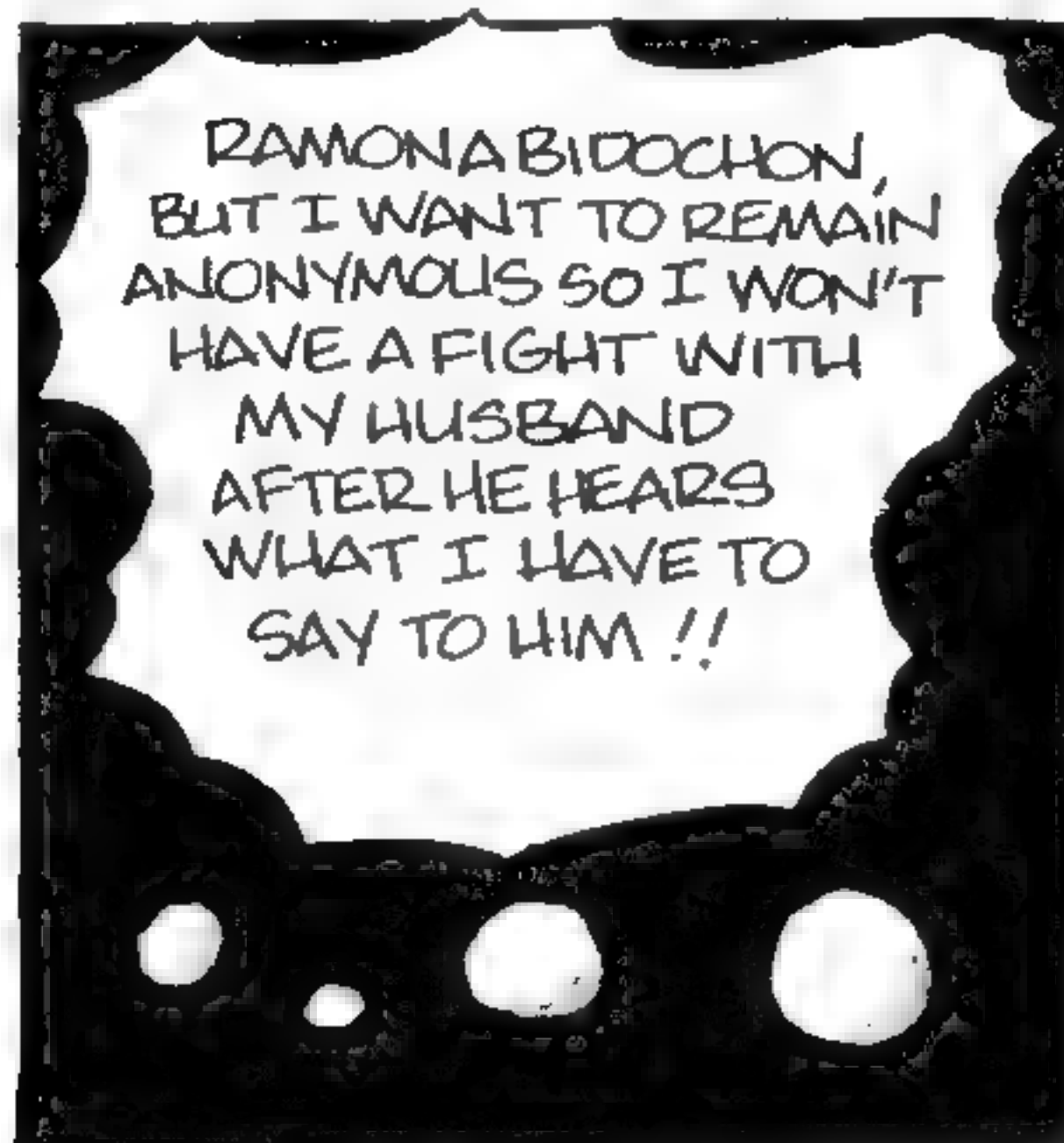
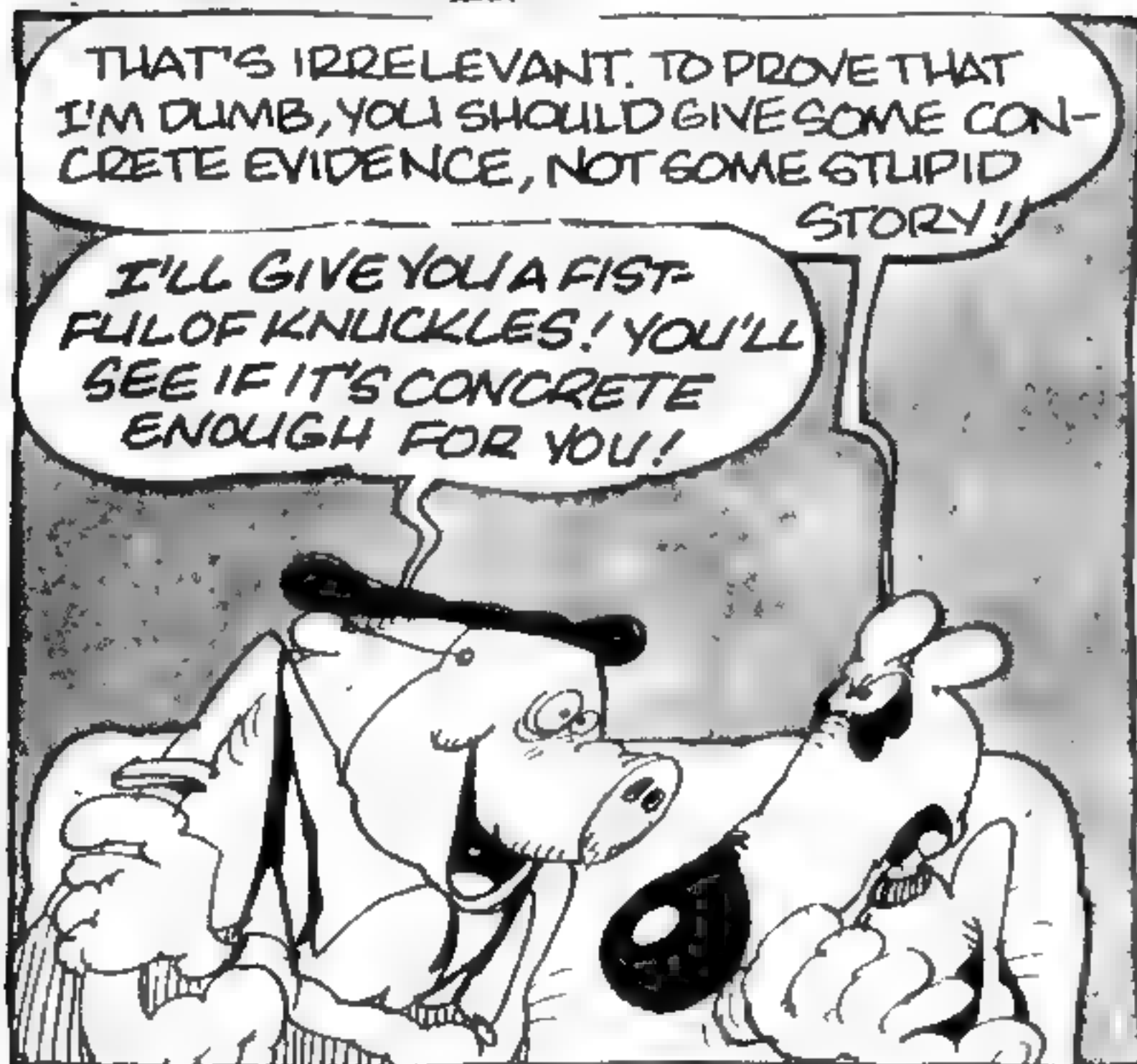
MR. BIDOCHON, IN THE LIGHT OF THE MANY YEARS THAT YOU HAVE SPENT WITH YOUR DOG, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE THAT IF DOGS DIDN'T EXIST, SOMEBODY WOULD HAVE TO INVENT THEM?

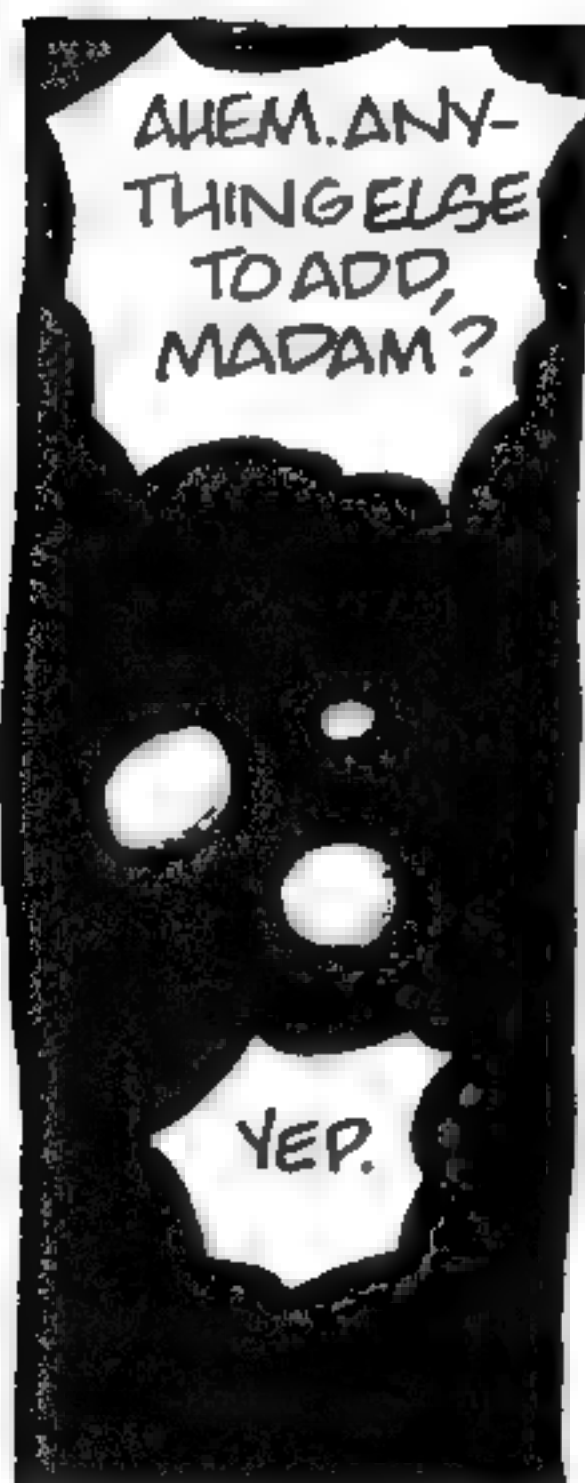
YES!

BUT NOT MAKE THEM SO DUMB!

WAIT A MINUTE!

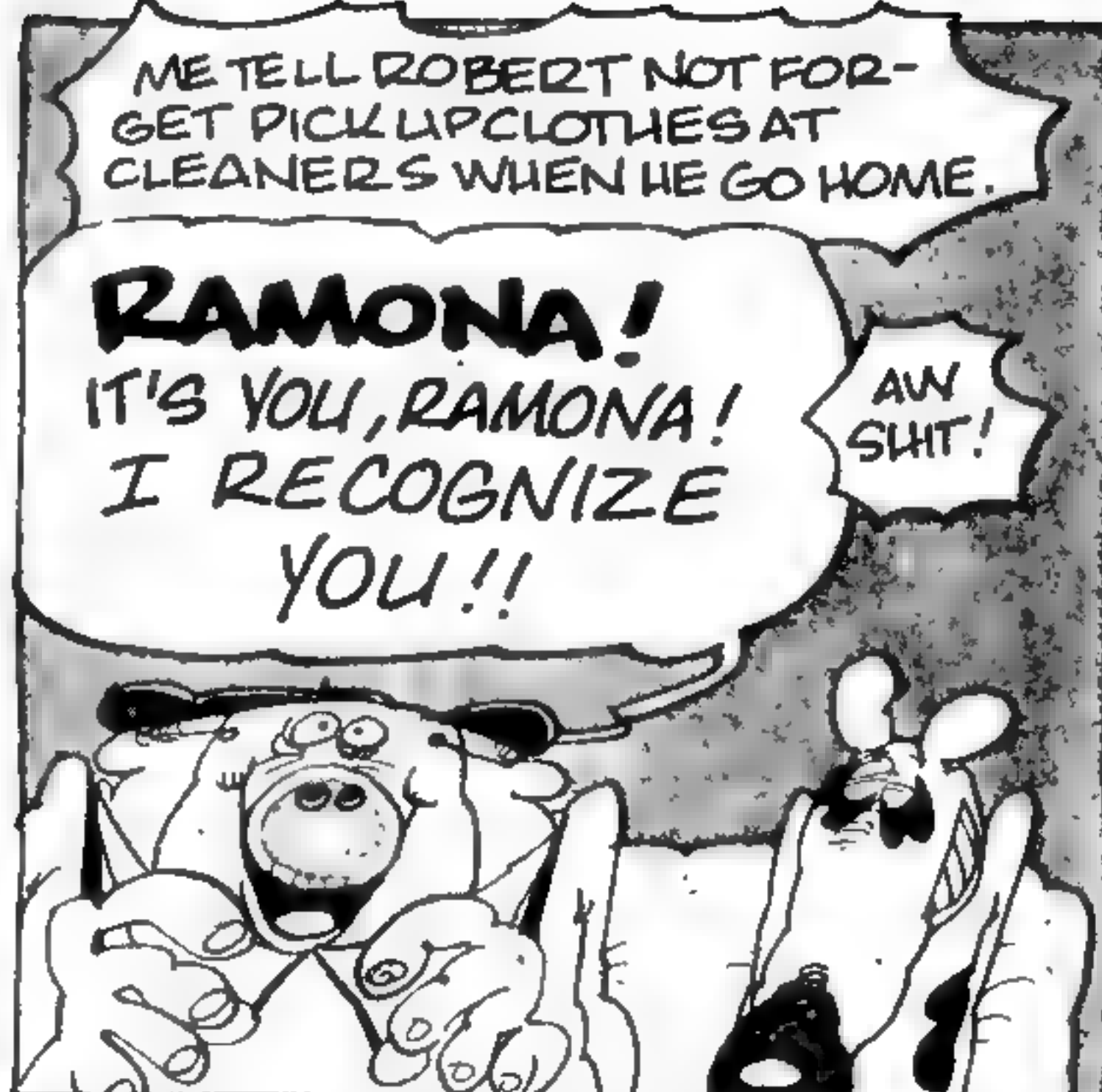






AHEM. ANY-
THING ELSE
TO ADD,
MADAM?

YEP.



ME TELL ROBERT NOT FOR-
GET PICK UP CLOTHES AT
CLEANERS WHEN HE GO HOME.

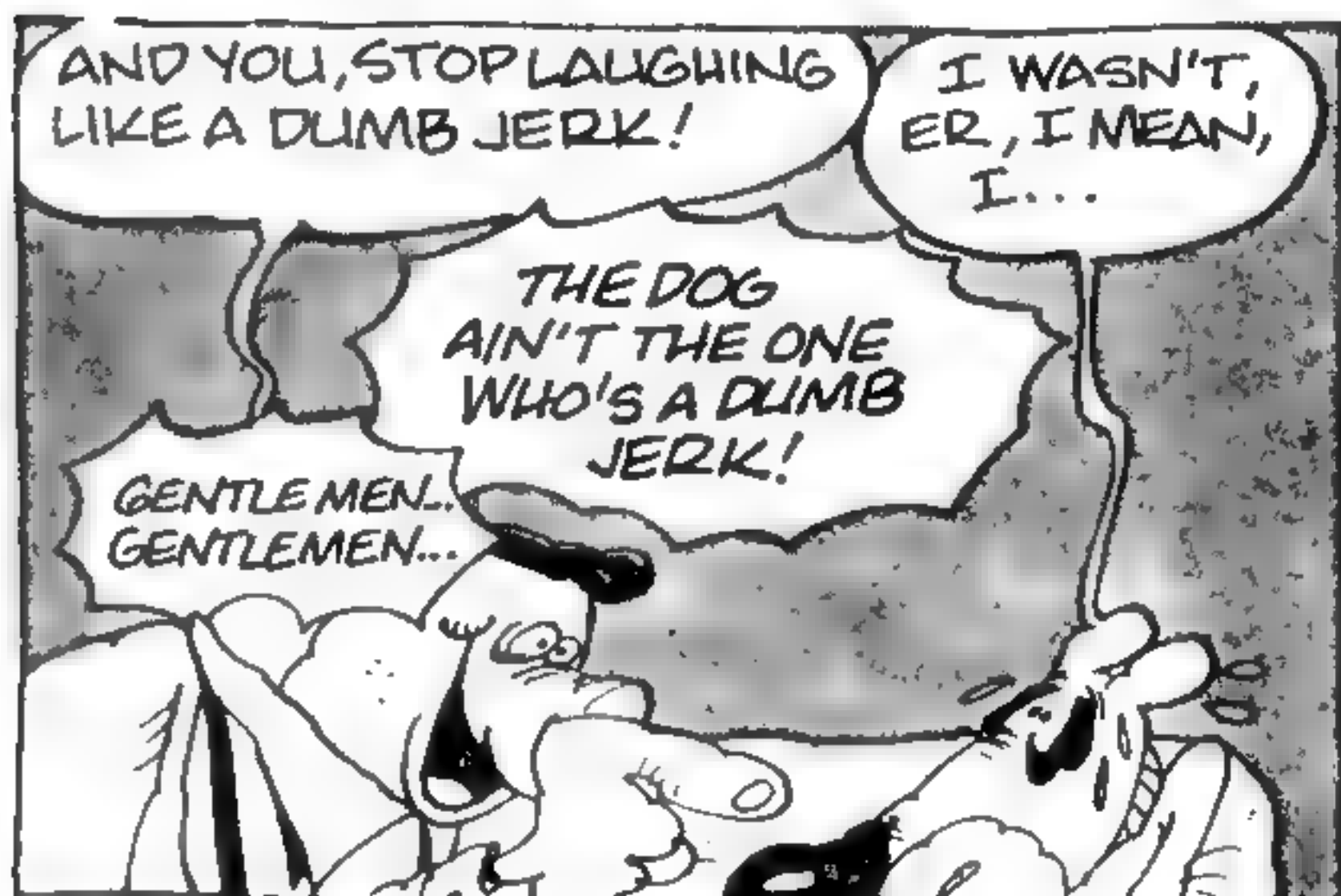
RAMONA!
IT'S YOU, RAMONA!
I RECOGNIZE
YOU!!

AW
SHIT!



WE'LL TAKE
CARE OF THAT
TONIGHT! YOU
BETTER WATCH
OUT!!

HA! I'D
LIKE TO
SEE
THAT!!



AND YOU, STOP LAUGHING
LIKE A DUMB JERK!

I WASN'T,
ER, I MEAN,
I...

THE DOG
AIN'T THE ONE
WHO'S A DUMB
JERK!

GENTLEMEN...
GENTLEMEN...



YOU AND KADOR
ARE GANGED UP
AGAINST ME!

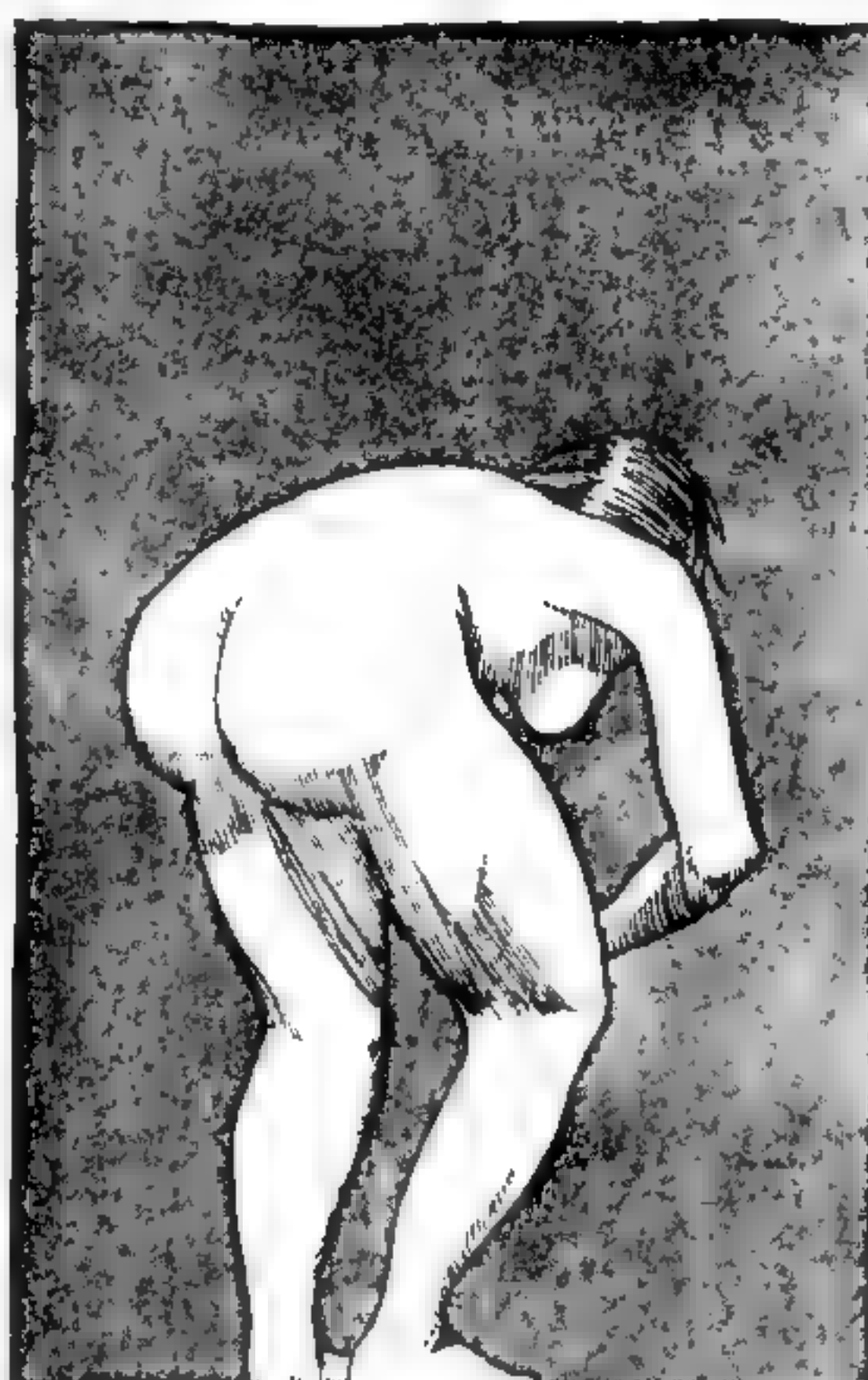
AH-HA! YOU
SAID KADOR'S
NAME! YOU UN-
MASKED YOUR-
SELF, ROBERT!

PLEASE,
SIR,
MADAM,
PLEASE!

IT'S ALL
YOUR FAULT,
YOU DUMB
BITCH!

WHO ARE
YOU CALLING
A DUMB
BITCH, YOU!

CUT!



AND NOW A WORD
FROM OUR SPONSOR

Coming Next In...

FRENCH ICE

FEATURING CARMEN CRU

Krypto may be dead and gone, but there are still some dogs who don't give up without a fight! French Ice #12 is yet another very special issue giving the spotlight to the world's most misunderstood canine, Kador, and his hilarious masters, the Bidochons.



THE KAMA SUTRA

As hinted in Kador on TV, Ramona's sex life is looking more and more like the Gobi desert. Driven to desperation, the sex-starved housewife now turns her eyes towards Kador. But can her faithful companion be turned into a love slave?



THE SEPARATION

Ramona's had it! Feeling neglected by her husband, she leaves Robert, who finds himself at the tender mercies of Kador. Can man and dog cohabitate peacefully in the absence of the soothing Ramona?

WARNING: BOTH STORIES CONTAIN ADULT SEXUAL THEMES THAT MAY BE OFFENSIVE TO SOME READERS.



THE PUNISHMENT

The concept of a "dog's life" takes on a new twist when Robert decides to punish Kador by shooting his suspenders into the dog's eyes. But hasn't Robert overestimated his abilities this time?

THE GOOD DEED

To wrap up this issue: a treat from our Archives department. The indomitable Carmen Cru's very first encounter with the priest.



CARMEN'S MAILBOX



RJM Lofficer,
6539 Jamieson Avenue, Reseda, CA 91335

Hello friends at French Ice!

Carmen Cru is the greatest! I appreciate sincerely that French Ice is being published. For myself, I am in awe of the amazing creative and talented writing that goes into the stories. I work in a bookstore all day and, personally, I rank French Ice as great literature, since it incorporates such wonderful humor with true-to-life characters and situations. I am often very moved when reading the stories -- beyond how I have felt after reading many "classics." "Carmen Cru" is a classic! Your stories are written with a sensitivity that I really enjoyed, and I thank you.

Since I love to write and read, that is my favorite aspect of your work (the literary aspect).

As for my best friend Jim, he is a cartoonist and ever since he has discovered "Carmen Cru" he has aspired to LeLong's artistic grace. He truly is mesmerized with the graphics. He sometimes says, "how does he do it?" under his breath. Carmen Cru is so terrific, she is the only other woman I don't mind competing with!

Thank you for your time, your writing, your art, your talent and compassion - everything!

Esme Codell

This is the kind of letter that keeps everyone working on French Ice going! I too feel that LeLong's literary approach is what makes Carmen a unique character.

Deni

Mssrs.

This scratchy, itchy, sooty drawing is certainly suited to Carmen Cru. But I'm finding my liking for the lady in reference harder to find: the crotchety wise grannie I applauded, for dumping her uncollected garbage on the desk of the refuse-chief, is the mean-spirited, malicious old crone who dumped water to freeze on her neighbor's steep steps.

Well. It's nonetheless entertainingly well-done. I've especially liked "Water's Edge" and "The Picnic". I was disappointed with the "Kador" back-up (less charmin' Carmen!) until I read it. Give the dog his own book I say!

Matt Levin
Northampton, MA

Thanks Matt. I am sure that Kador would love his own book. As for the reason why we don't give it to him, you will have to wait and read our final Kador story in issue #15 of French Ice.

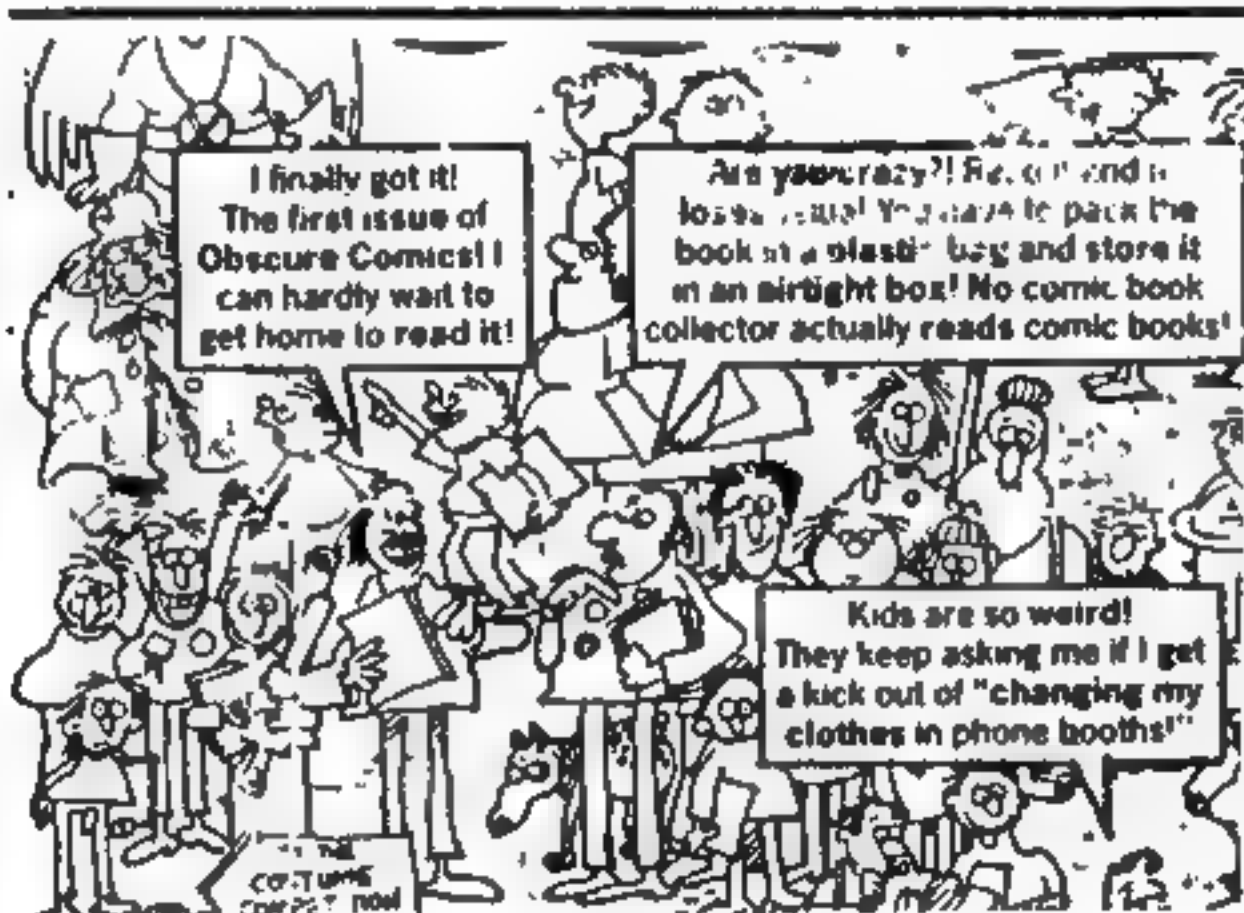
For those unaware, Matt is the rubber-stamp artist of the mini-book Walkin' Man, a very poetic mini that I have enjoyed for several years. I highly recommend it to you.

Deni

CARMEN SPOTTING AGAIN!

The article was sent to us by Wordsmith author David Darrigo. It appeared last May in the Toronto Globe and Mail. One can't help but wonder if our Carmen isn't perhaps a universal character. La Sagouine may not live in a big city - but it appears she handles life with the same adroitness of our Carmen.

A SINGULAR SCRUBWOMAN



Above is a small excerpt from an illustration that Jean-Marc and Randy spotted recently in an issue of MAD. Anyone familiar with Sergio Aragones will recognize his style immediately. If you look closely at the upper left corner, you will recognize a very familiar, and crotchety, face. Our thanks to Sergio for his kind permission to re-print this.

The role of La Sagouine got Viola Leger out of teaching — and Acadia. Now she's home, realizing her dream of having her own company.

Now I don't want to be naive. But imagine how lovely the country will become when we start visiting each other again.
— Actress Viola Leger

BY RAY CONROGUE
The Globe and Mail
MONCTON

VIOLA LEGER is sitting in the sunny living room of her modest house in Moncton. The maple floor is polished to a mother-of-pearl consistency. There are some spare and beautiful sticks of antique furniture, a sofa clinging to respectability before the last collapse of springs and upholstery, and a curious streak of the modern: a dissonant Levolor blind on the window.

And, cherished on the fireplace mantel, her Dora Mavor Moore Award for La Sagouine.

Leger herself does not entirely escape looking like her famous character, the rough Acadian scrubwoman who speaks a patois that could itself almost fabricate the floor she is scrubbing. Leger, of course, has a queenly quality La



SHIPWreckING APRIL



VALENTINO THE THIRD

art and story by Valentino
B&W/ 32 pages/
\$2.00 U.S./ \$2.75 CDN

The third in this critically acclaimed annual series. Once again writer-artist Valentino looks at life (and love) as well as telling of his first encounter with Harvey Pekar. Includes two text tales: "Coincidences and Ironies" and "The On-Going Anxieties of Obnoxious Addictions".



MS TREE #46

Story by Max A. Collins
Art by Terry Beatty
and Gary Kato
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